SAINT ★ SEIYA KNIGHTS OF THE ZODIAC™

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

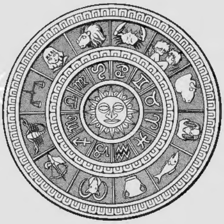
Masami Kurumada

volume 21

車 田 正 美

They often say that if you write ghost stories or stories about the underworld, you can get cursed. If and when that happens, you can get rid of the evil by going to a temple or having a purification ceremony performed...but I don't believe in gods or religion at all. The whole time I've been drawing the Hades arc, I haven't been to a temple or done a purification ceremony, and I've been absolutely fine. Perhaps I have powerful guardian spirits, or maybe I'm not important enough for the underworld to bother with...No, wait a sec...What about those continual, hellish weekly deadlines? D-Don't tell me that's...

Masami Kurumada—1990



Masami Kurumada made his manga debut in 1974 with **Sukeban Arashi** (Delinquent Storm), the story of the life of a teenage girl. His first big hit came in 1977 with the popular series **Ring ni Kakero** (Put It All in the Ring). In 1986, he truly hit it big when he created **Saint Seiya** (Knights of the Zodiac), which was first serialized in **Weekly Shonen Jump** magazine, then went on to span 28 volumes, 114 TV episodes, four movies and a video game!

KNIGHTS OF THE ZODIAC (SAINT SEIYA) Volume 21
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

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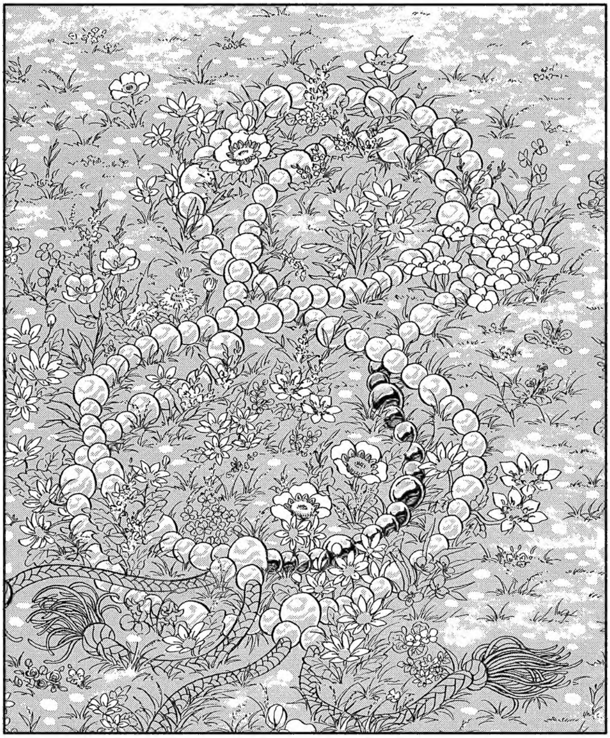
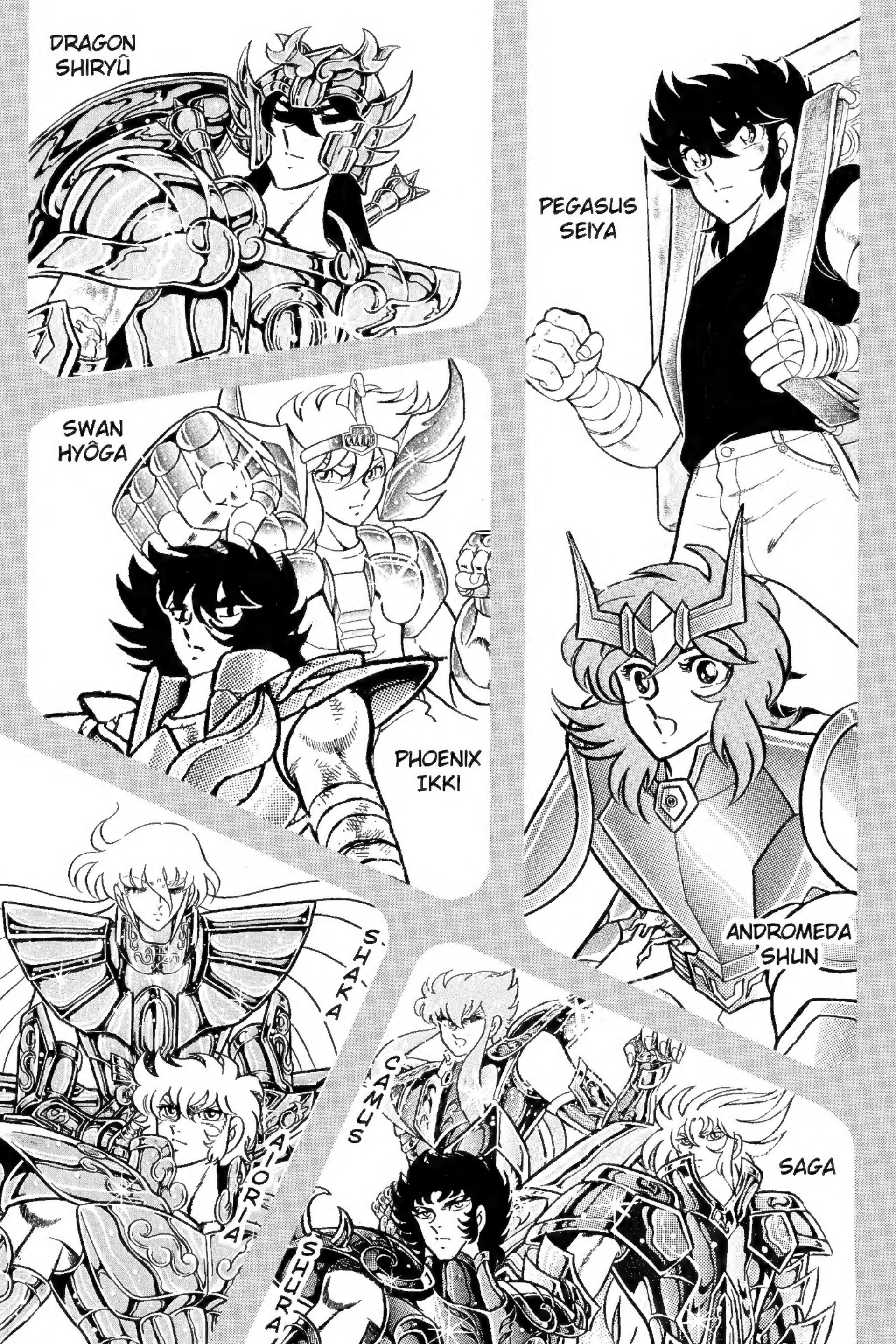
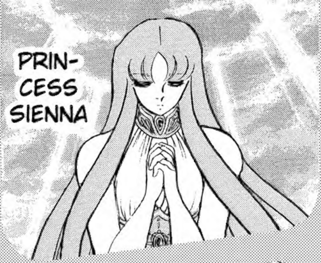


Vol. 21
Under the Sala Trees

Story & Art by **Masami Kurumada**


DRAGON SHIRYÛ
PEGASUS SEIYA
SWAN HYÔGA
PHOENIX IKKI
ANDROMEDA SHUN
SHAKA
AIORIA
CAMUS
SAGA
SHURA



THE STORY THUS FAR ...

LEGENDS SPEAK OF YOUNG MEN WHO PROTECTED THE GREEK GODDESS ATHENA. KNOWN AS ATHENA'S KNIGHTS, THEY WERE SAID TO WIELD PUNCHES THAT CRACKED THE SKY AND KICKS THAT SPLIT THE EARTH.

TO RAISE WARRIORS WITH THE STRENGTH TO FIGHT FOR PRINCESS SIENNA, THE INCARNATION OF ATHENA, LORD NOBU OF THE GRANDE FOUNDATION SENT 100 BOYS INTO THE WORLD TO TRAIN AS KNIGHTS. FOUR BRONZE KNIGHTS--SEIYA, HYÔGA, SHIRYÛ, AND SHUN--SUCCEEDED BRILLIANTLY IN THEIR TRAINING. AT SANCTUARY, THE HEADQUARTERS OF KNIGHTHOOD, THEY DEFEATED THE CORRUPT MASTER OF SANCTUARY, GEMINI KNIGHT SAGA. BEFORE THE BRONZE KNIGHTS COULD RECOVER FROM THEIR INJURIES, THE SEA GOD POSEIDON AWOKE FROM HIS SLUMBER AND ATTACKED HUMANITY. THROUGH LOVE AND JUSTICE, ATHENA AND HER KNIGHTS DEFEATED POSEIDON AND RESTORED PEACE TO THE EARTH.

NOW HADES, THE GOD OF THE UNDERWORLD, HAS AWAKENED AND BEGUN HIS PLAN TO CONQUER THE WORLD. AS ATHENA RECOVERS FROM HER ORDEAL WITH POSEIDON, SANCTUARY IS INVADED BY THE SPECTERS, MINIONS OF HADES. AND AMONG THE SPECTERS ARE FORMER GOLD KNIGHTS!

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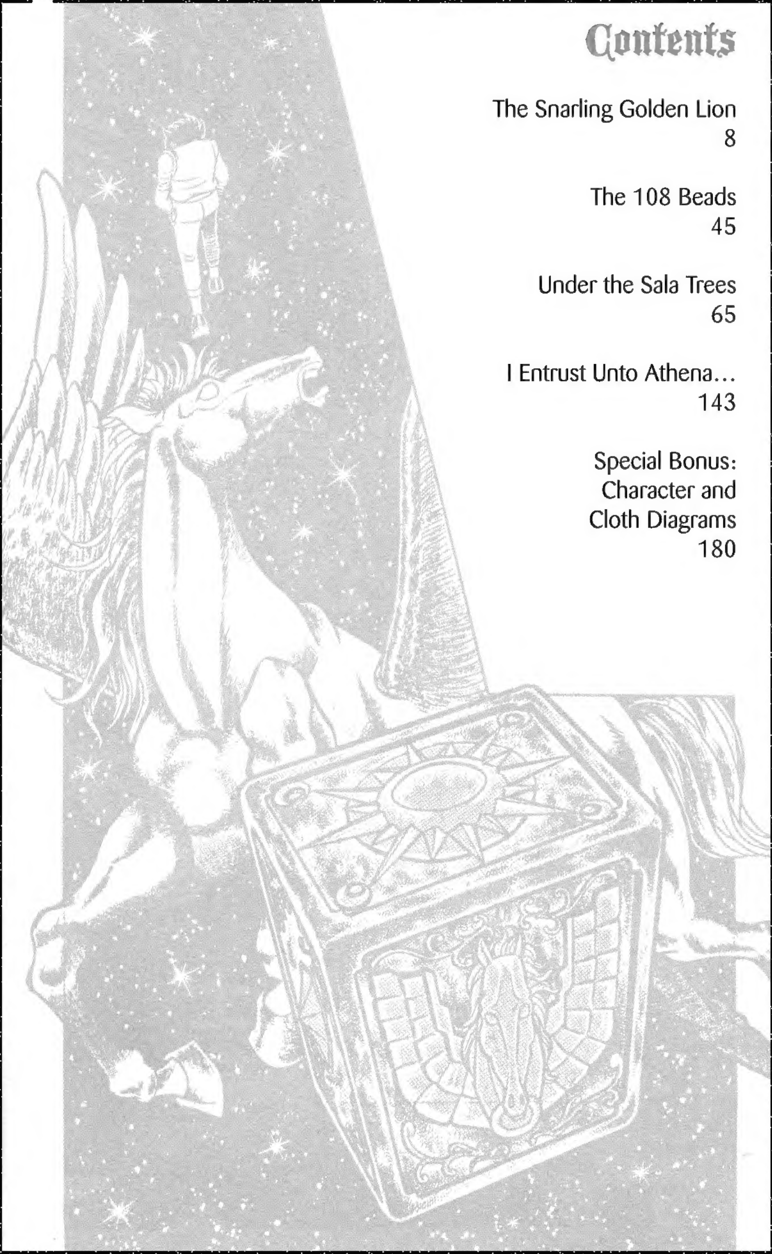


SAINT ★ SEIYA
KNIGHTS OF THE ZODIAC

THE SNARLING
GOLDEN LION

READ THIS WAY
GRRRM
SO YOU'RE THE GUARDIAN OF THE PALACE OF THE LION!
WHERE ARE SAGA AND THE OTHERS?
SAGA AND THE OTHERS? I HAVE NO IDEA.
I LET NO ENEMY PASS, NO MATTER WHO.

HMM...IN THAT CASE, I GUESS THEY TELEPORTED THEMSELVES ELSEWHERE...
SORRY, BUT NOPE.
WHAT ?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TELEPORT BETWEEN PALACES. NOT EVEN MÛ CAN DO IT.
THE 12 PALACES HAVE BEEN PROTECTED BY ATHENA'S SACRED COSMO SINCE THE AGE OF MYTHS.
I SEE.
THEN WHERE DID SAGA AND THE OTHERS GO?
NO MATTER HOW MUCH POWER YOU POSSESS, YOU MUST PASS THROUGH THEM ON YOUR OWN TWO FEET.
YOU'RE AWFULLY CONCERNED FOR THEM.

READ THIS WAY

LIGHT-
NING
PLASMA
!!

AAARGH!!

WHAT THE...
WHAT WAS THAT FLASH OF LIGHT? IT SLICED UP FIVE OF US IN AN INSTANT!
THIS MAN'S ON ANOTHER LEVEL!
YEAH. I SENSE BOTTOMLESS STRENGTH ...
LEO AIORIA ...
THE SNARLING GOLDEN LION...
AGAIN, I LET NO ENEMY PASS!
IF YOU ATTEMPT IT, PREPARE TO DIE!!

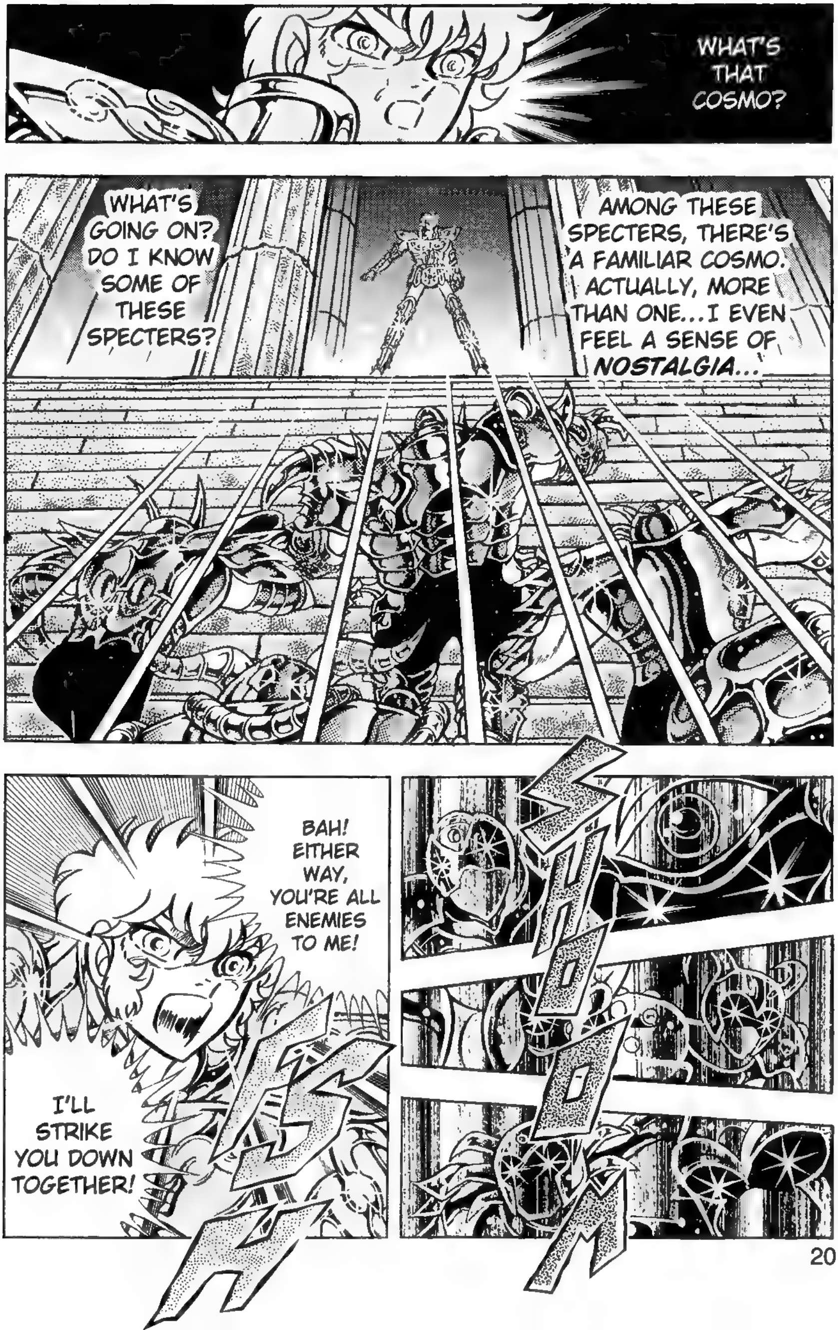
READ THIS WAY

OH!
WHOA! A SPECTER!
HUH ?
WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS?
AND TAKEN DOWN WITH ONE BLOW!

READ THIS WAY
IT'S NOT JUST ONE! THREE SPECTERS, ALL FELLED AT ONCE!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE KILLED INSTANTLY, WITHOUT PUTTING UP A FIGHT!
THEY'RE ALSO STRIPPED OF THEIR SURPLICES ...
THIS MAKES NO SENSE!
HMM...THE SECOND MAN HAS JUST ONE WOUND. IT LOOKS LIKE HE WAS SLICED WITH A SHARP BLADE.
AND THE THIRD LOOKS LIKE HE FROZE TO DEATH...
DON'T TELL ME...
...THESE SPECTERS WERE DEFEATED BY...

I'M THE EARTHLY LOW-LYING STAR, WORM RAIMI!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF AIORIA. THE REST OF YOU, GO ON AHEAD.
HEE HEE HEE...NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU ARE, I'LL MAKE YOU WEAK AS A KITTEN!

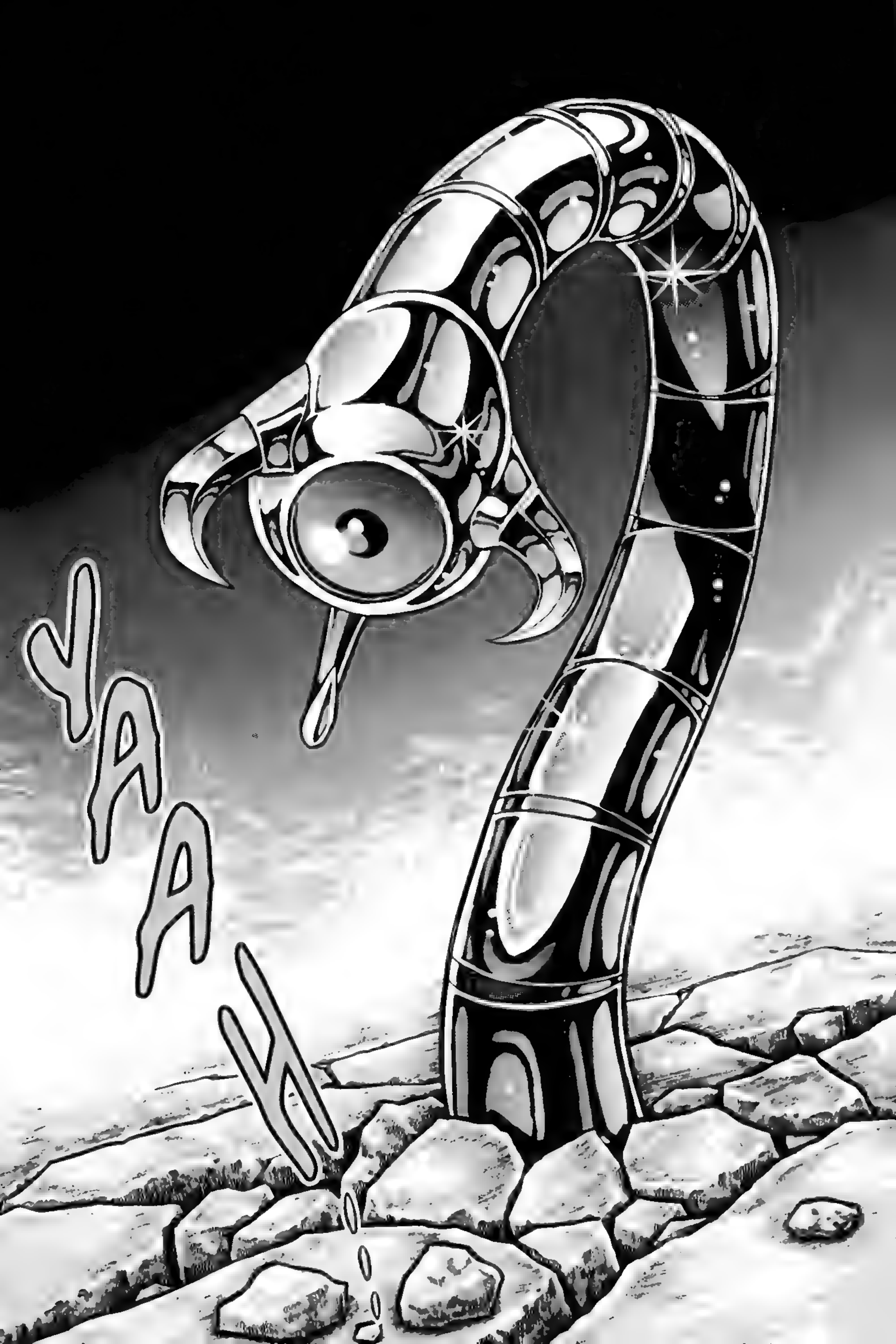
READ THIS WAY


WHAT'S THAT COSMO?
WHAT'S GOING ON? DO I KNOW SOME OF THESE SPECTERS?
AMONG THESE SPECTERS, THERE'S A FAMILIAR COSMO. ACTUALLY, MORE THAN ONE...I EVEN FEEL A SENSE OF NOSTALGIA...
BAH! EITHER WAY, YOU'RE ALL ENEMIES TO ME!
I'LL STRIKE YOU DOWN TOGETHER!

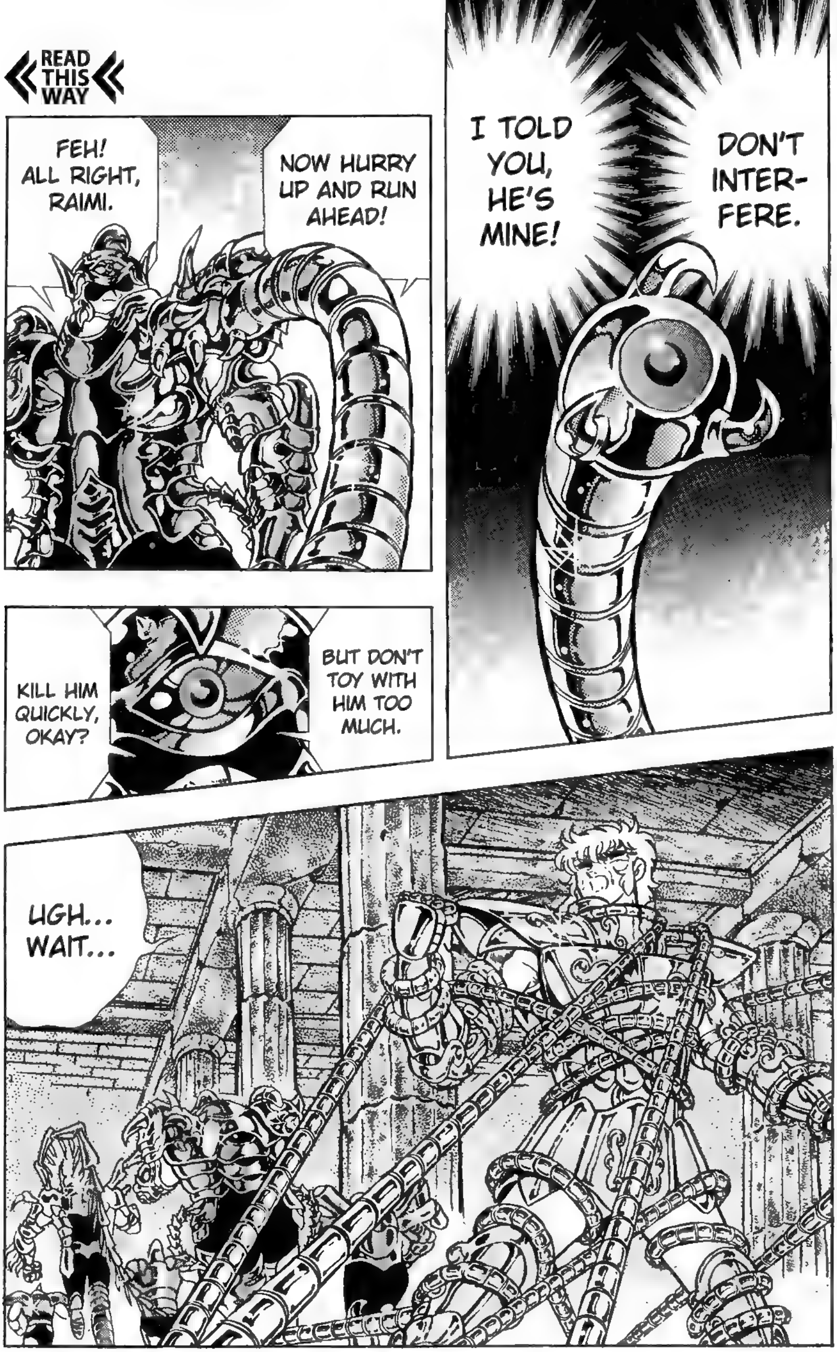
READ THIS WAY
VOOOM
WHAT?
BOP
BOP
BOP
UGH!
WH... WHAT IS THIS?

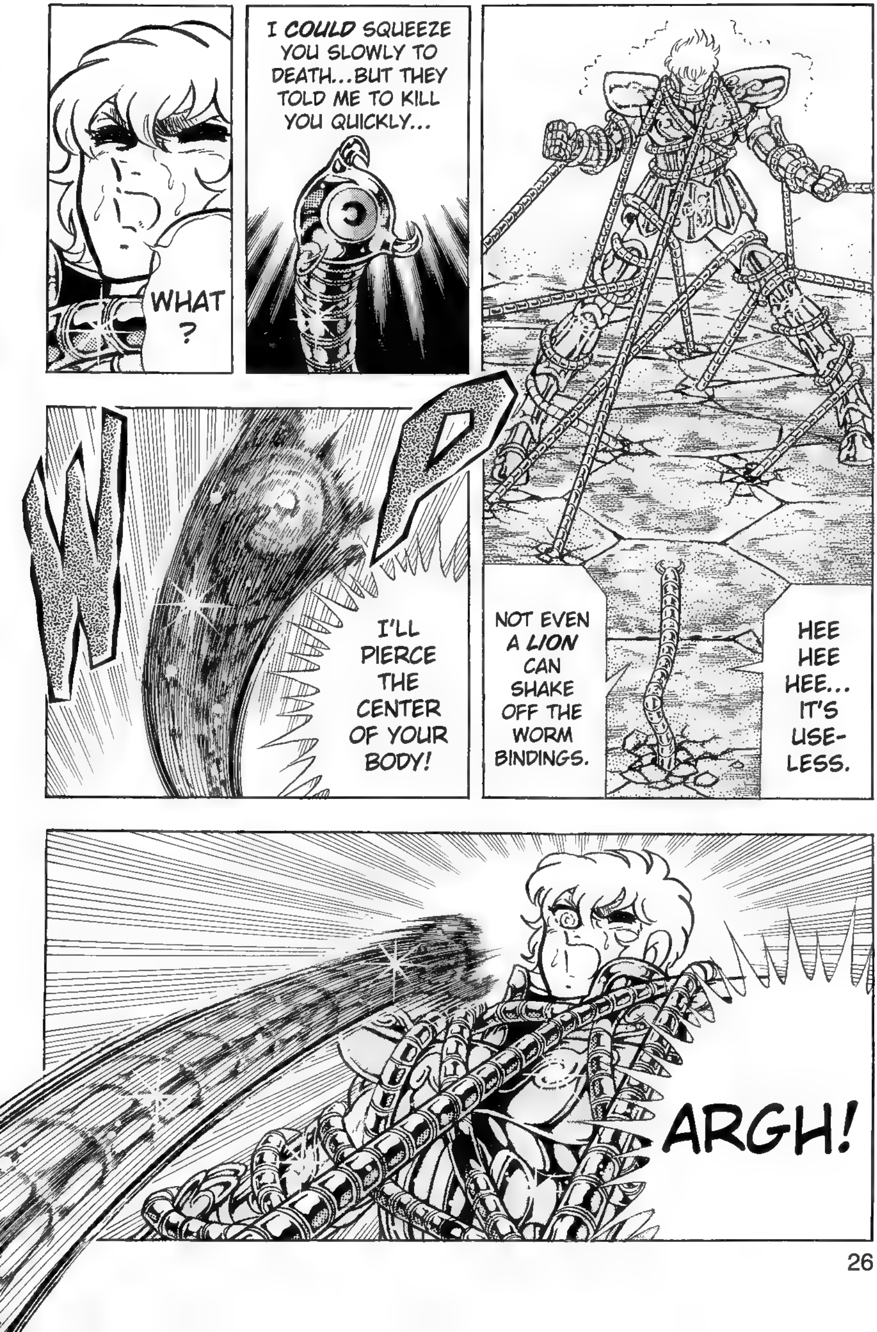
WORM BIND-INGS!!
SKRRRK
IT FEELS LIKE MY LIMBS ARE BEING TORN OFF!
UGH...SO STRONG...
GRK
THIS MUST BE THE WORK OF THAT RAIMI GUY...
W... WORM BIND-INGS?

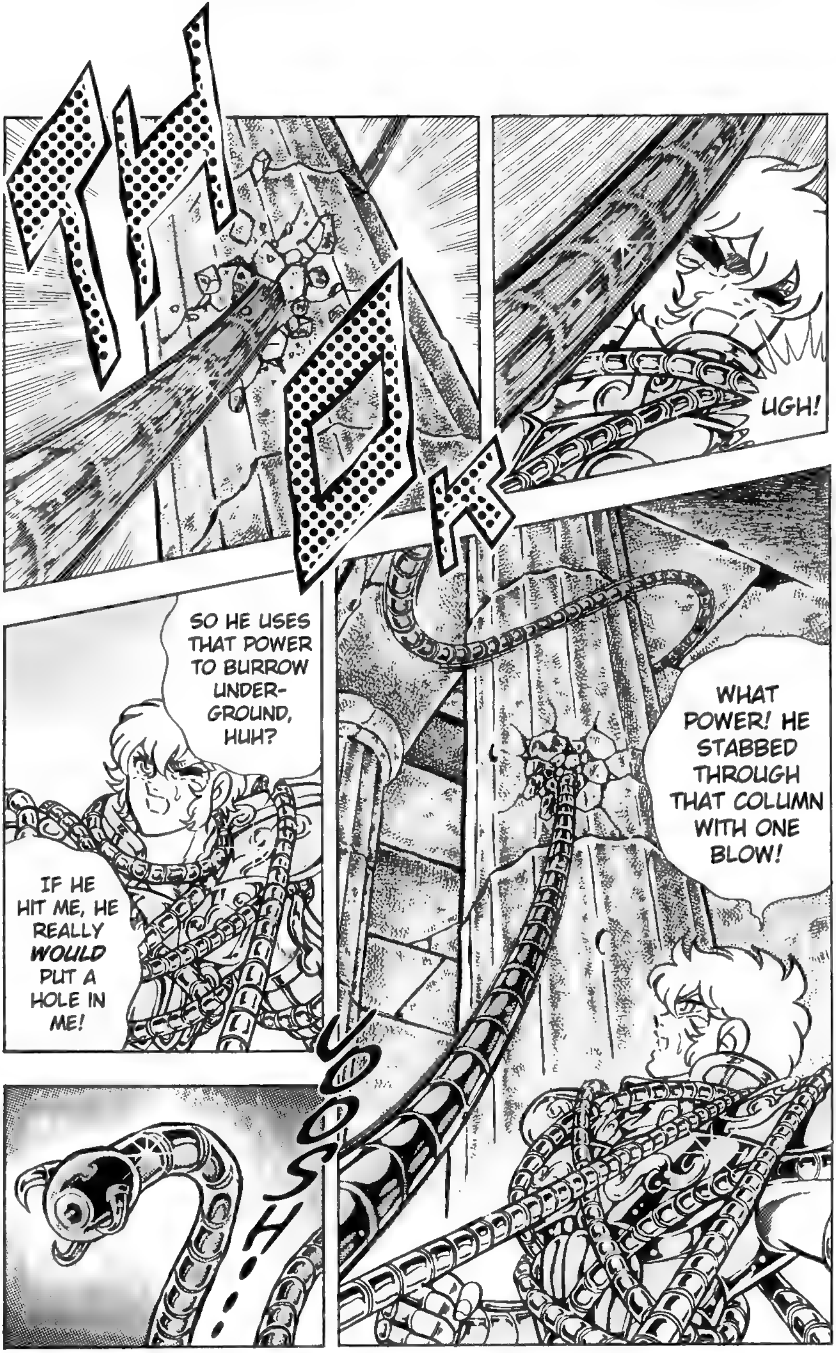
READ THIS WAY


YAAH

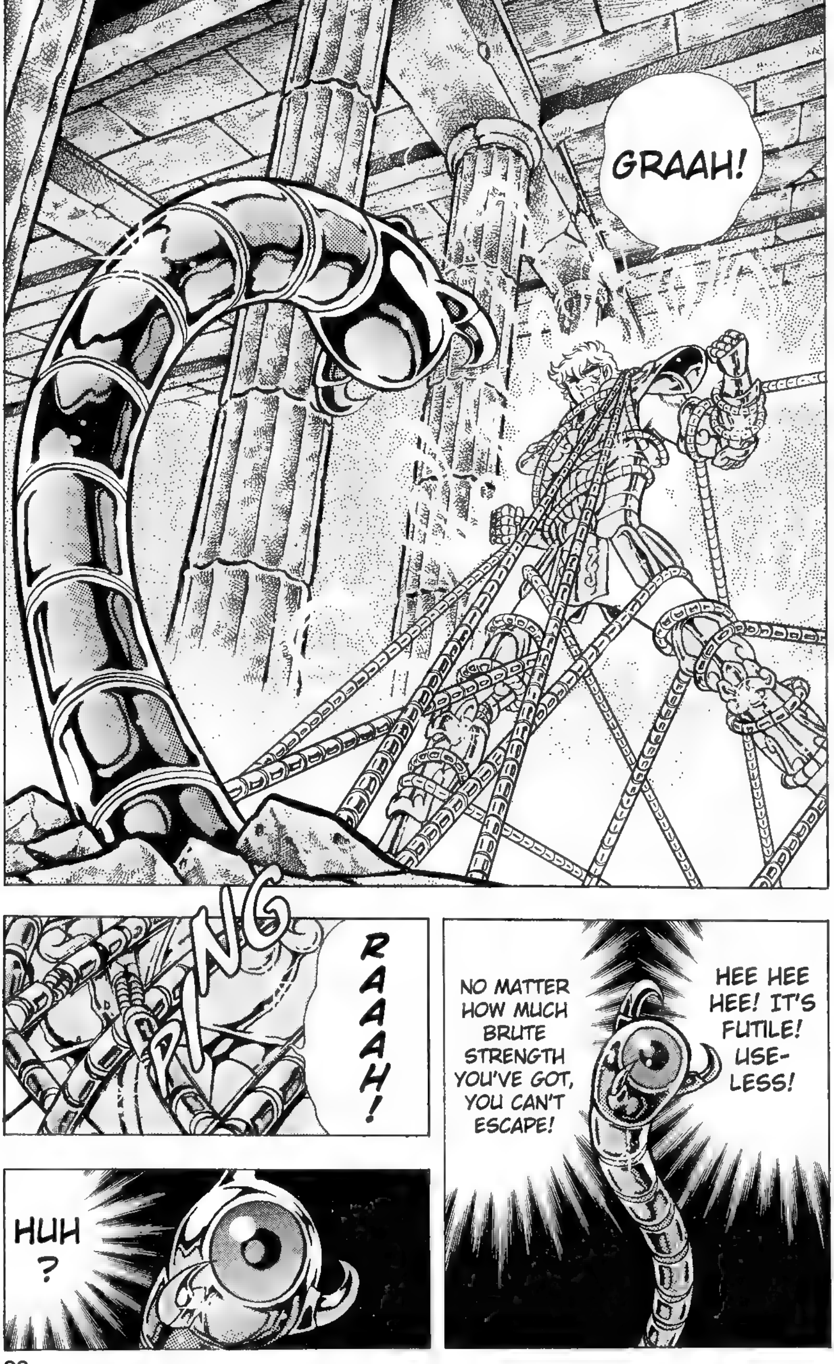
READ THIS WAY

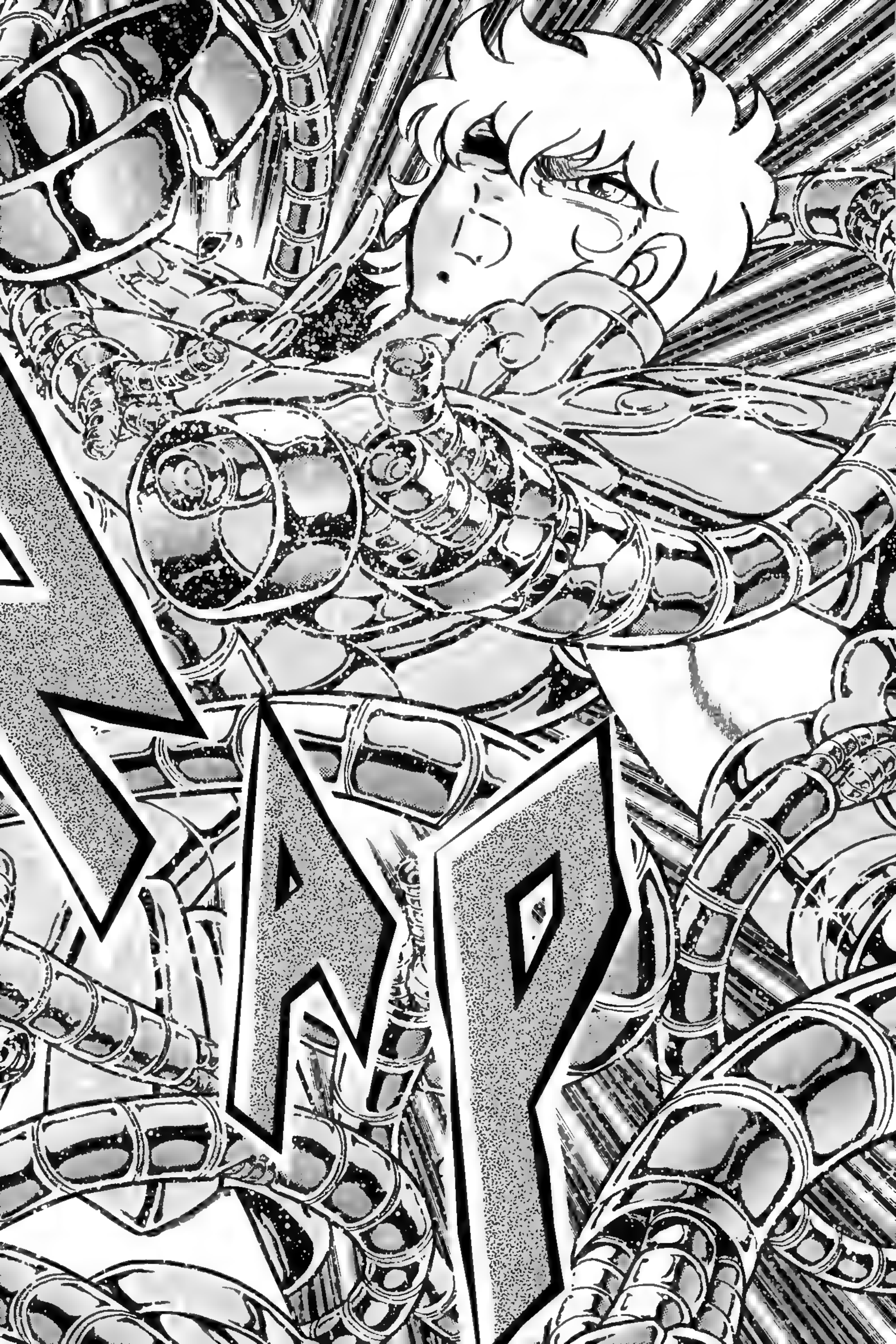



WHAT?
I COULD SQUEEZE YOU SLOWLY TO DEATH...BUT THEY TOLD ME TO KILL YOU QUICKLY...
HEE HEE HEE... IT'S USE-LESS.
NOT EVEN A LION CAN SHAKE OFF THE WORM BINDINGS.
I'LL PIERCE THE CENTER OF YOUR BODY!
WIP
ARGH!


UGH!
SO HE USES THAT POWER TO BURROW UNDER-GROUND, HUH?
IF HE HIT ME, HE REALLY *WOULD* PUT A HOLE IN ME!
WHAT POWER! HE STABBED THROUGH THAT COLUMN WITH ONE BLOW!

I WON'T LET YOU KILL ME...
HEE HEE...DON'T STRUGGLE. I'M PUTTING YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY...
I'LL SHOW YOU LEO'S STRENGTH!!
YOU THINK A MERE **WORM** CAN TAKE ME DOWN?

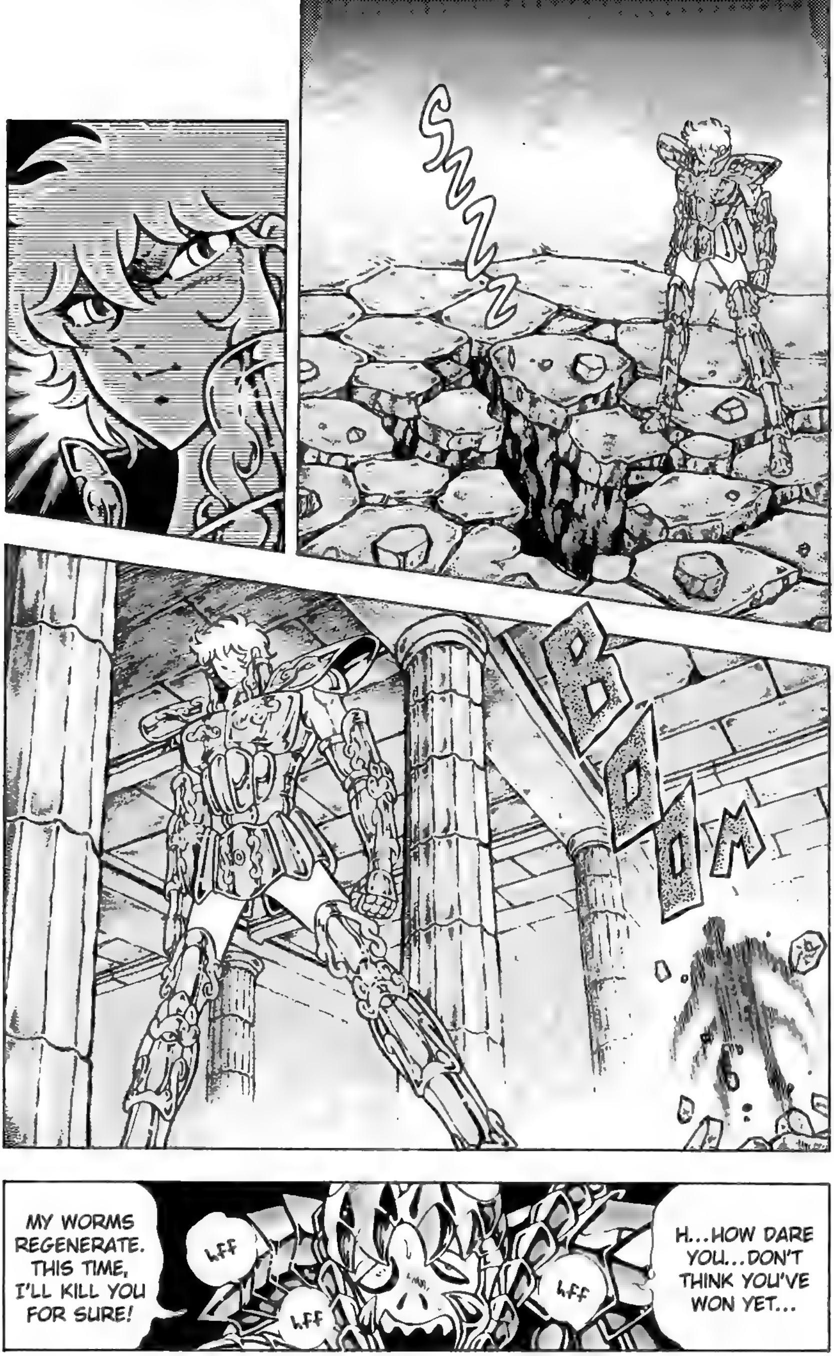

GRAAH!
PING
RAAAAH!
HEE HEE HEE! IT'S FUTILE! USE-LESS!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH BRUTE STRENGTH YOU'VE GOT, YOU CAN'T ESCAPE!
HUH?



WHAT?
HE SNAPPED THE WORM BINDINGS INTO TINY PIECES!
A MERE WORM CAN'T TAKE A LION DOWN!
ZHAK
HOW DARE YOU?
THIS TIME, I'LL RIP THROUGH YOUR BODY!
VWIP

WAAH!
POP
UNH!
SHUK
GAH!
WAAAH!

READ THIS WAY


SNNNN
BOOM
MY WORMS REGENERATE. THIS TIME, I'LL KILL YOU FOR SURE!
hff
hff
hff
H...HOW DARE YOU...DON'T THINK YOU'VE WON YET...

DIE, AIORIA! WORM BINDINGS !!

AIEE!

LIGHT-
NING
PLASMA
!!

AAAAARGH!
UGH... F... FOILED ...
GRRK...
AIORIA !!

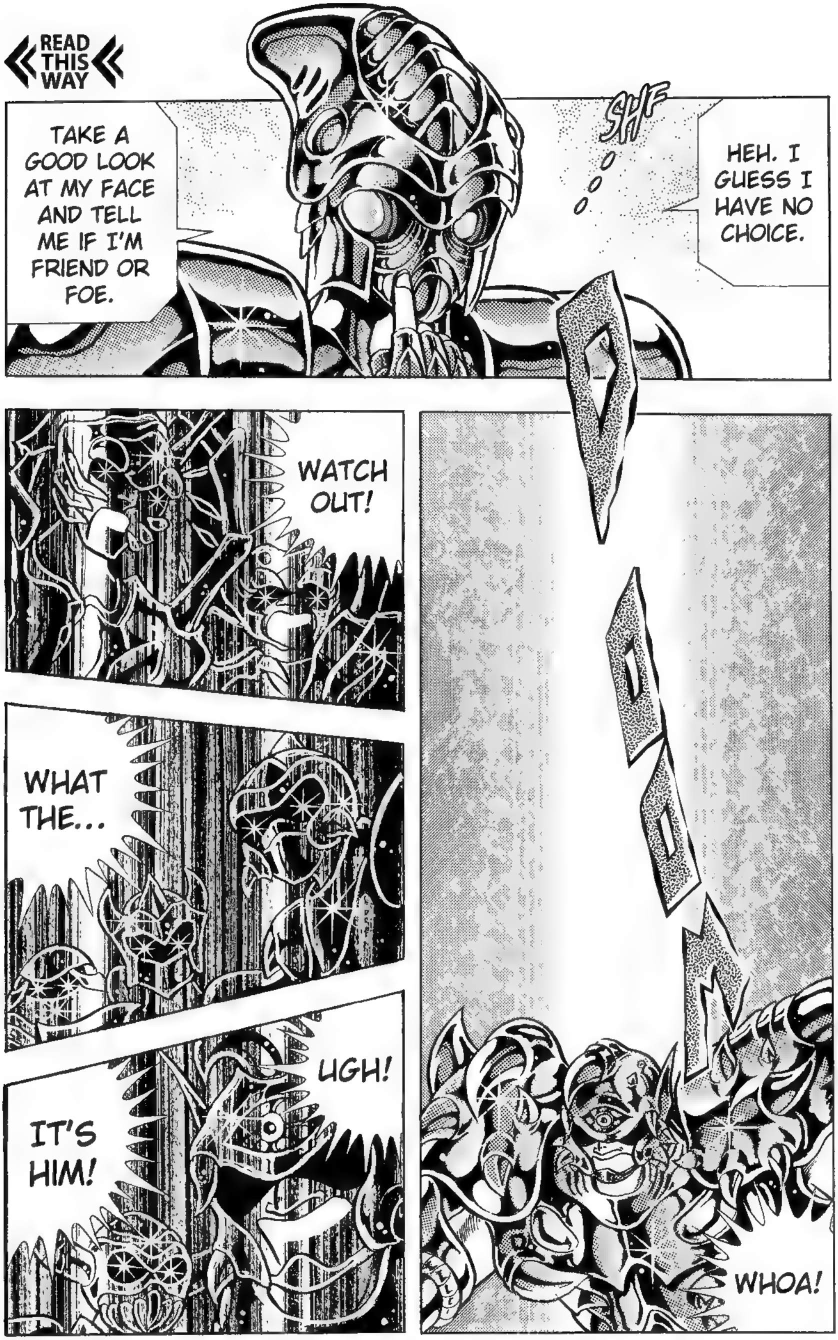
READ THIS WAY

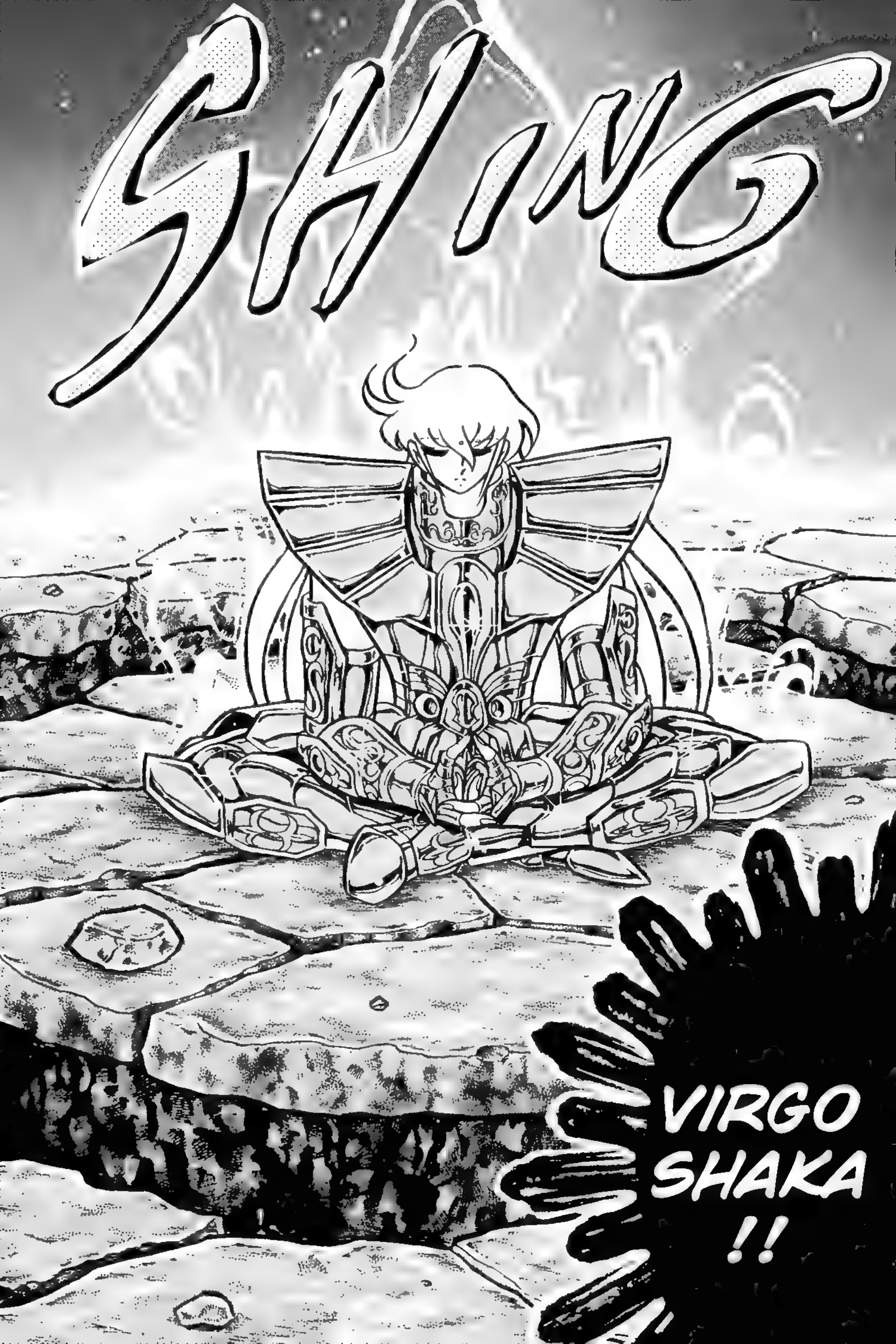
THE SIXTH PALACE! THE PALACE OF THE MAIDEN!!
TAKKATAKKA
BUT I DON'T SENSE A COSMO HERE!
IT'S TRUE! THIS IS THE PALACE SHAKA IS SUPPOSED TO DEFEND...
...BUT IT'S LIKE AN EMPTY HUSK.
ZHAK
HMM...MAYBE SHAKA AND SAGA WIPED EACH OTHER OUT WHEN THEIR COSMOS CLASHED.

READ THIS WAY

TAKE OFF YOUR MASK.
CUBE!!
WHAT ?
SIR?
...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? CAN'T TAKE IT OFF?
ZHK
!
BAH

READ THIS WAY




SHING
VIRGO SHAKA !!

READ THIS WAY

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

READ THIS WAY
IMPUDENT FOOL! YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE DOWN ALL OF US ALONE?
YOU'RE THE ONE HEADED FOR THE UNDER-WORLD!
KK
SH
DIE, SHAKA!!
SWISH

KAZAAP
KAAN
WHAT'S THIS?
THERE'S A BARRIER DEFLECTING OUR ATTACKS!
I SEE! AFTER HE FOUGHT SAGA, HE RETREATED INTO THAT BARRIER AND SUPPRESSED HIS COSMO!

READ THIS WAY

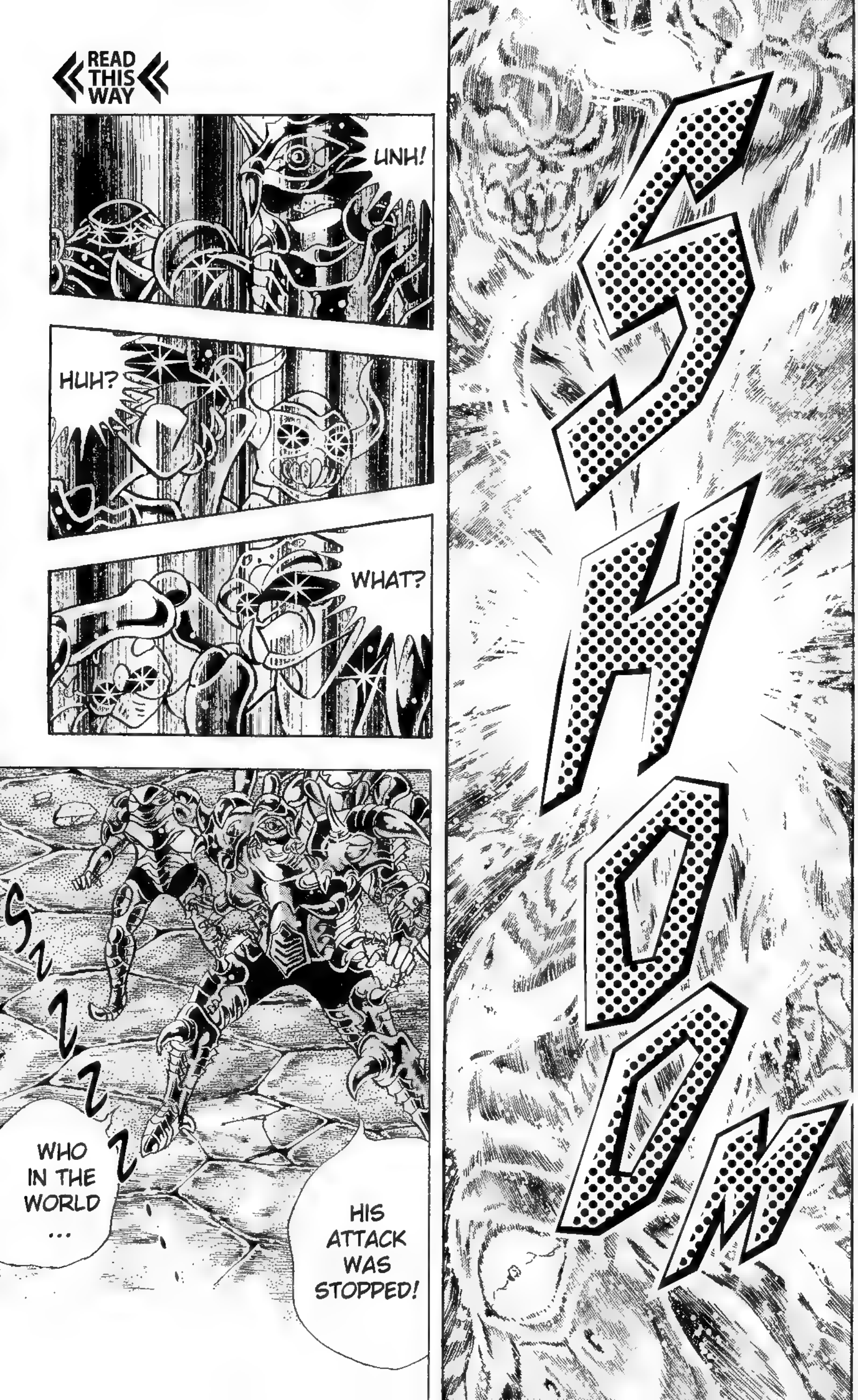
TENKÛHAJA, CHIMIMÔRYÔ: THE HEAVENS SHALL CONQUER EVIL!

GYAH
NOOOO!
THEY CAN'T BE REAL...
UNH...
WHY FEAR THESE EVIL RIVER AND MOUNTAIN SPIRITS? THEY SHOULD BE YOUR KIN!
LET ME SHOW YOU THIS.

SHING
THERE ARE 108 BEADS ON THIS ROSARY, JUST AS THERE ARE 108 OF YOU SPECTERS.
IT'S SAID THAT FOR EACH BEAD YOU PRAY ON, ONE WORLDLY SIN SHALL BE EXTINGUISHED. THE GODS CREATED IT TO EXPEL YOU EVIL WARRIORS!
LOOK! ALREADY, 11 OF THE BEADS HAVE DARKENED.
THAT'S HOW MANY SPECTERS HAVE BEEN KILLED.
WHAT? ELEVEN OF US?
NO WAY! IT CAN'T BE!
SOON YOUR BEADS WILL DARKEN, TOO.
KLATTER

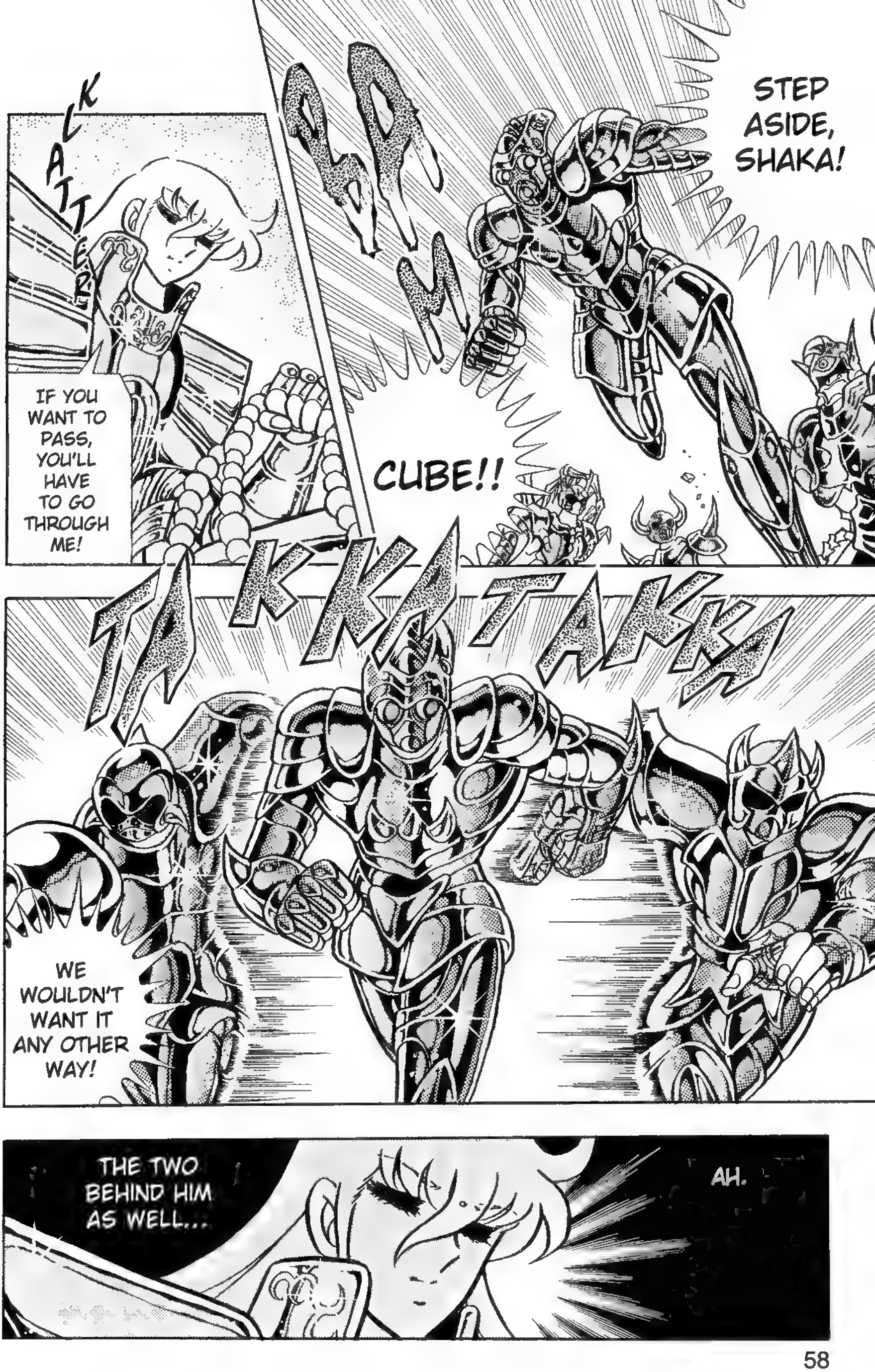
DIE NOW, EVIL SOULS!
TENKÛ-HAJA, CHIMIMÔ-RYÔ: THE HEAVENS SHALL CONQUER EVIL!

READ THIS WAY



CUBE!
SZZZZZ
WAS IT YOU WHO BLOCKED ME?
HM.
HEH...NOT ALL OF US FEAR YOUR LITTLE BLUFFS.

I SEE. YOUR COSMO WAS BRIEFLY SEVERED AT THE PALACE OF THE GIANT CRAB...
...BUT YOU SURVIVED AND MADE IT HERE.


KLATTER
IF YOU WANT TO PASS, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME!
STEP ASIDE, SHAKA!
CUBE!!
TAKKATAKKA
WE WOULDN'T WANT IT ANY OTHER WAY!
THE TWO BEHIND HIM AS WELL...
AH.

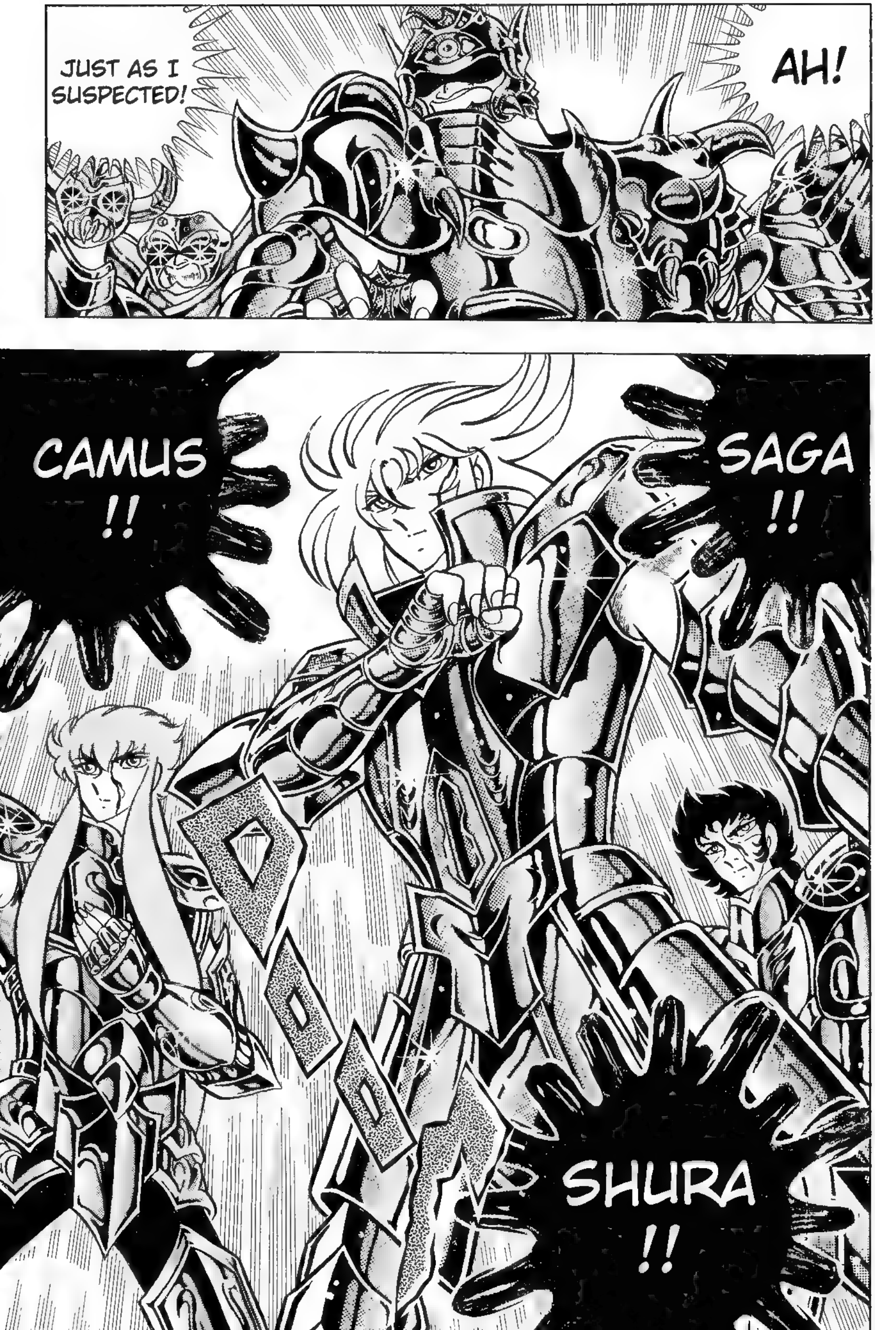
YES! THESE THREE ARE STRANGERS! BUT WHO ARE THEY?
OX!!
MILLS!
DIE!!
SHAKA !!

BOOOM
IT'S NO GOOD!
THE BARRIER DEFLECTS ALL ATTACKS !!
WHAT ?
NO, THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE...
THEY MANAGED TO WOUND HIM A LITTLE.

PLIP
PLIP
THEN THESE THREE ARE...
WHAT? GOLD KNIGHTS?
SHF...
YOU'VE STOOPED TO EVIL, BUT YOU'RE STILL GOLD KNIGHTS IN STRENGTH.
YOUR COMBINED POWERS ARE NOTHING TO TRIFLE WITH...

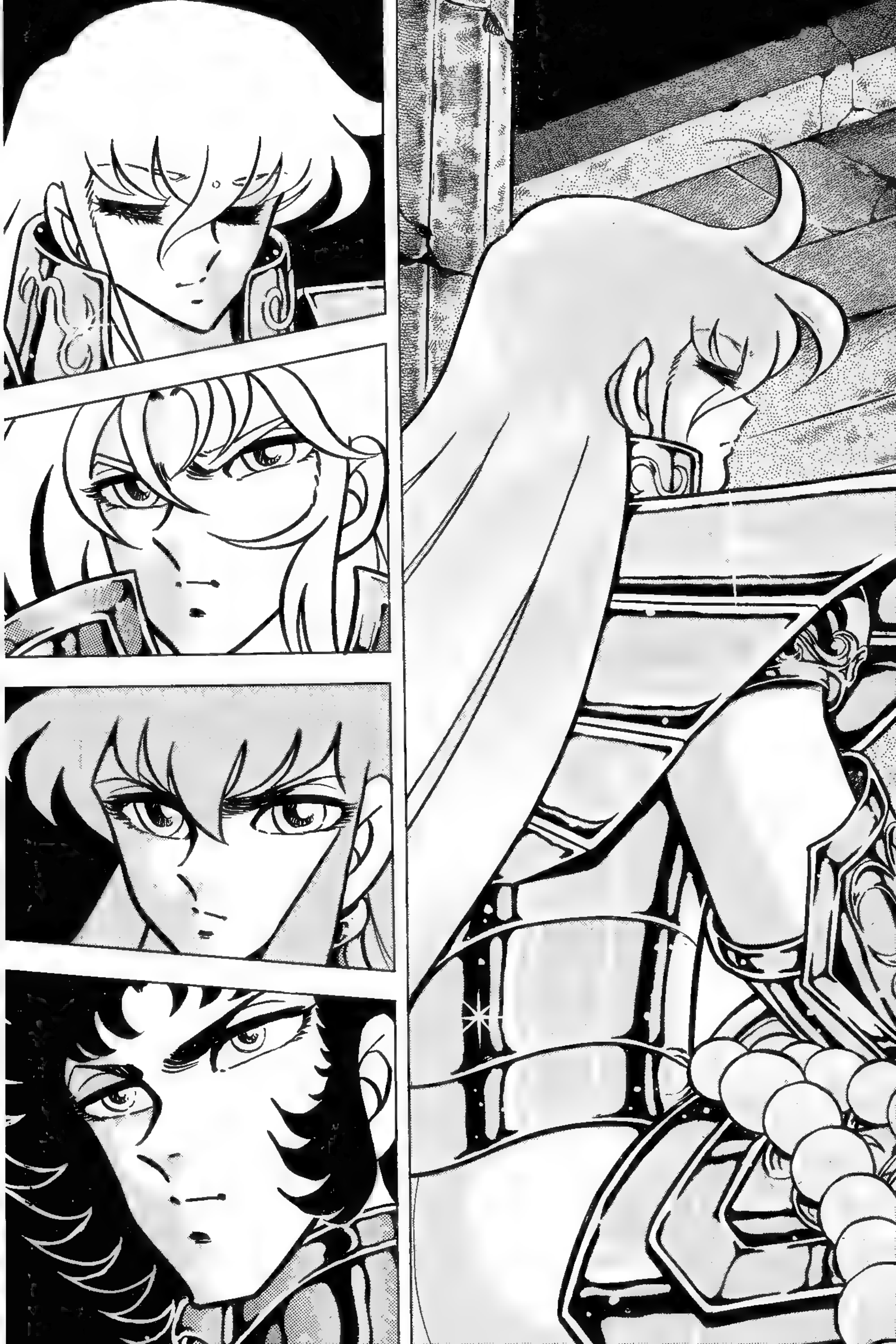
FWASH
NOW TAKE OFF THOSE BORROWED SURPLICES AND SHOW YOUR FACES!!
KLANK
THUNK
THUD
UNH!

READ THIS WAY



SHAKA'S PRE-PARED TO DIE!
WHAT?
I KNOW SHAKA WANTED TO STOP THEM AT THE PALACE OF THE GIANT CRAB.
BUT NOW THAT THEY FACE EACH OTHER AT THE PALACE OF THE MAIDEN...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? TELL ME, AIORIA!
SAGA, CAMUS AND SHURA...
...SHAKA IS PREPARED TO DIE.
THAT'S MY GUT FEELING!

UNDER THE
SALA TREES



CAMUS! SHURA!
SAGA!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
WHY ARE YOU HERE IN DISGUISE?
DON'T TELL ME YOU SUPPRESSED YOUR COSMOS...
...AND KILLED CUBE AND THE OTHERS!
JUST AS WE SUSPECTED, YOUR OATH OF FEALTY TO LORD HADES WAS A *SHAM!*

FWA
SH
UNH !!
MY...MY BODY...
I CAN'T MOVE ...
EVEN TOGETHER, YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR SHAKA.
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES, STAY BACK.
WHAT?

IF YOU REALLY WANT ATHENA'S HEAD, LEAVE HIM TO US!!
ARGH !!
GAH!!
CY-CLOPS!
UGH... SAGA...
WHAT ARE YOU...

IS THAT TRUE, SAGA?
YOU REALLY PLAN TO TAKE ATHENA'S HEAD?
YES.
IN TRUTH?
WHELP!

BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP

YOU TRULY *ARE* HADES' FAITHFUL LACKEYS. YOUR ONLY THOUGHT IS TO TAKE ATHENA'S HEAD.
I SEE...IT'S CRYSTAL CLEAR.
YOU MAY PASS!
WHAT?

I'M NOT SO FOOLISH TO THINK I COULD FACE THREE FORMER GOLD KNIGHTS AT ONCE.
DON'T HOLD BACK! GO ON!
KLAK
KLAK
KLANK
WE SHALL.
KLAK
KLAK

HUH?
THIS IS A JOKE.
HE REALLY DID LET THEM PASS!
AND THEY CALL THIS GUY "GOD-LIKE"?
I GUESS HE VALUES HIS LIFE...
WELL, *WE* CAN'T WASTE OUR FISTS ON COWARDS, EITHER!
LET'S IGNORE HIM AND MOVE ON!

DID YOU FORGET AL-READY?
FORGET WHAT?
WHAT?
SHING
SAGA TOLD YOU TO STAY BACK IF YOU VALUED YOUR LIVES.
LOOK! YOUR BEADS ARE CHANGING COLOR!
FOOL! WE WERE GOING TO SPARE YOU, BUT YOU HAD TO OPEN YOUR BIG MOUTH!
FINE! WE'LL TEAR YOU APART AND FORCE OUR WAY THROUGH!

I WON'T LET YOU KEEP DEFILING THE STONES OF THESE PALACES WITH YOUR UNCLEAN FEET!!
BEGONE, RABBLE!!
ARGH !!
WAAAAH!!!

TENMA: DEMON !!
KÔFUKU: PACIFI-CATION !!

DO YOU FEAR DEATH?
UGH...
THOSE LOYAL TO LORD HADES ARE GRANTED ETERNAL LIFE...
WHY SHOULD WE?
URK!
I SEE. I'VE BEEN IN CONSTANT CONVERSATION WITH THE GODS ALL MY LIFE, AND I'VE YET TO HEAR OF A SINGLE HUMAN WHO HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO LIVE FOREVER.
PERHAPS I'M JUST NOT ***ENLIGHTENED*** ENOUGH YET...
NO... ARE YOU SAYING... LORD HADES...
WH... WHAT?

DAD
AK
HALT!!
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE TAKEN CARE OF YOUR LITTLE WATCHDOGS.
NOW DISCLOSE YOUR TRUE INTENTIONS TO ME.
TRUE INTEN-TIONS?
THAT'S RIGHT. THE TRUTH YOU COULDN'T SPEAK IN FRONT OF THEM.
VERY WELL. I'LL TELL YOU.

WE'RE GOING TO TAKE ATHENA'S HEAD!!
BRRR
BRRR
BRRR
I SEE. I THOUGHT MEN LIKE YOU COULD NEVER GIVE IN TO HADES...
...THAT THERE HAD TO BE SOMETHING DEEP IN YOUR HEARTS... WELL, NOW MY HEART IS SET, TOO!

I'LL PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE TO STRIKE YOU THREE DOWN!

BUT IT WOULD BE DISRESPECTFUL TO ATHENA TO STAIN THIS PALACE WITH ANY MORE BLOOD.
FOLLOW ME, YOU THREE!
WHERE ARE WE GOING, SHAKA?
TO OUR DEATHS!
WHAT?

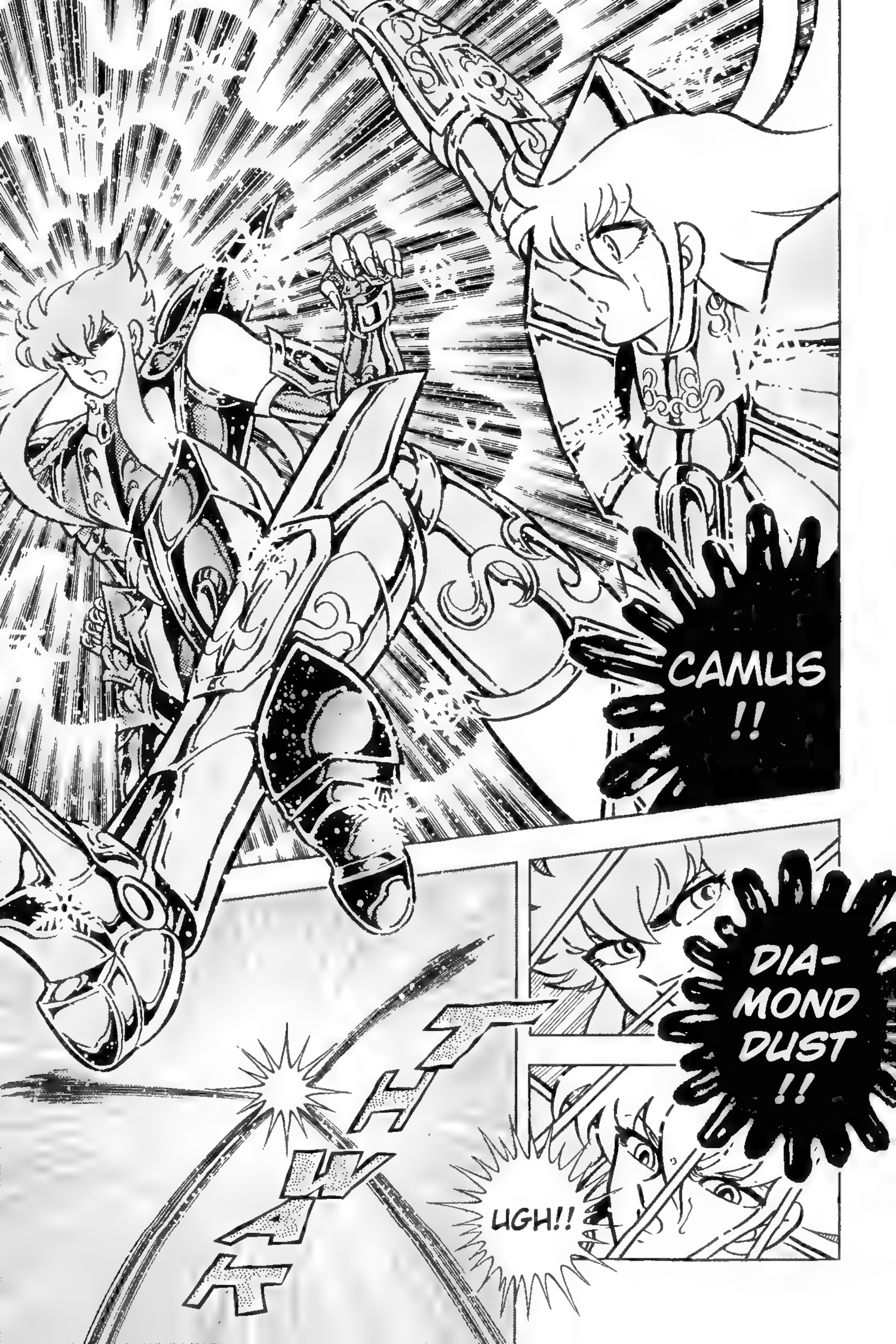
IS THIS THE PALACE OF THE MAIDEN?
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS FIELD, EITHER.
AH...
THE RUMORED GARDEN OF THE SALA TREES.
THE WHAT?

AS YOU KNOW, SOME BELIEVE SHAKA IS THE REINCARNATION OF BUDDHA.
WHEN BUDDHA DIED, HE LAY DOWN UNDER A PAIR OF SALA TREES.
I HEARD LONG AGO THAT SHAKA WOULD ALSO DIE BENEATH A PAIR OF SALA TREES...
...BUT I NEVER KNEW THE TREES WERE RIGHT HERE!

VOOOOOM
SHAKA IS PREPARED TO DIE FIGHTING US!
TAKKA
FINE! LET'S GRANT HIS WISH...
...HERE AT HIS SELF-APPOINTED DEATHBED!

DIE, SHAKA !!
EXCALIBUR!!
FWASH

DON'T BE SO SURE OF YOUR-SELVES!
FLIP
SHUF
YOU MAY BE THE ONES TO DIE HERE!
UNH!
WHAM

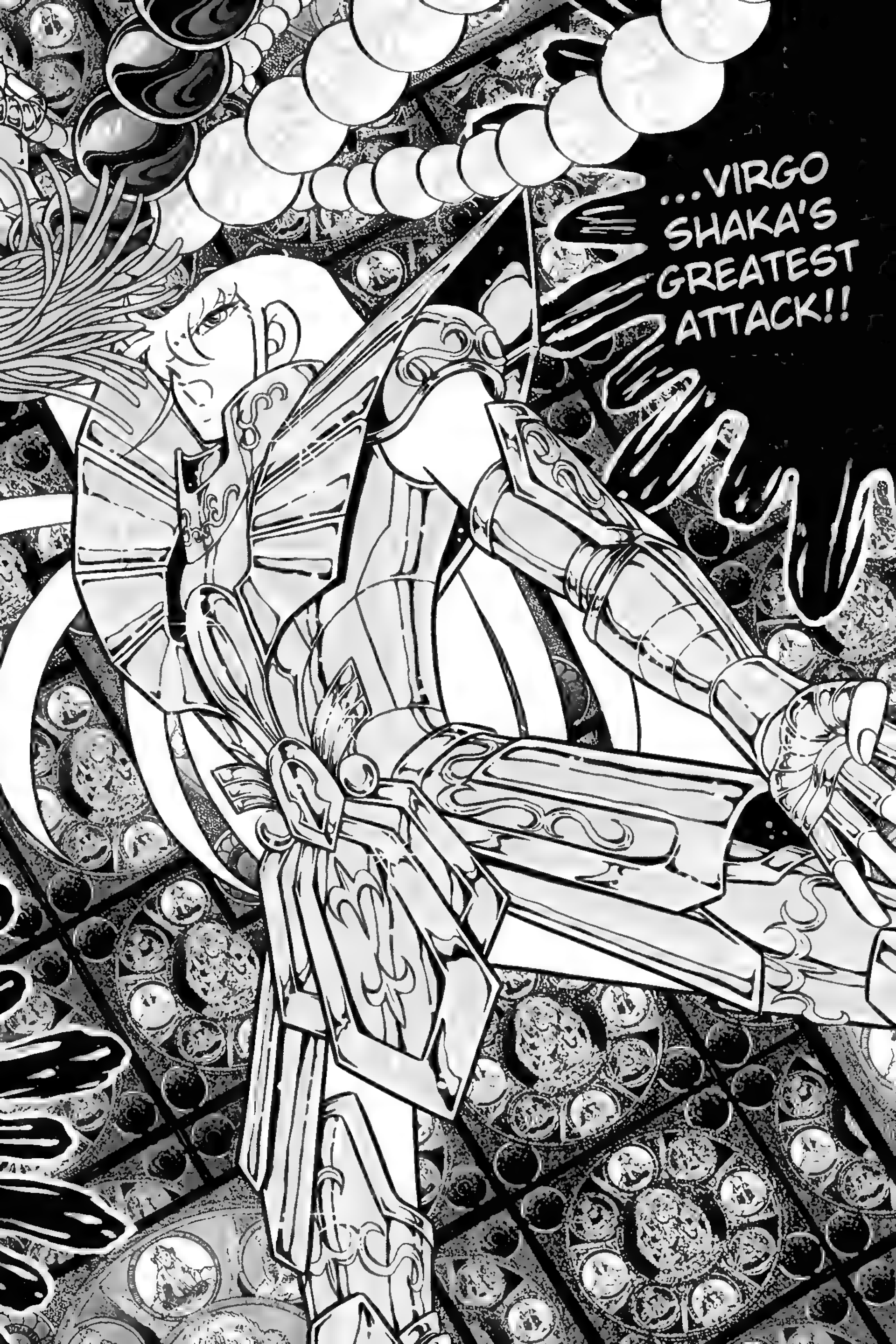

CAMUS !!
DIA-MOND DUST !!
UGH!!

KLLANK
UNH!
CAMUS'S BLOW FROSTBIT MY KNEE...

DIMEN-
SION
OF
EXILE
!!
I CAN'T GET BLASTED AWAY YET!
KLAK
UNH!
JUST AS I FEARED... AGAINST THE THREE OF THEM AT ONCE...
hff
...I'M DOOMED TO DIE...
hff

DOOOOOOOOM
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SHAKA?
GIVING UP ALREADY?
FWASH

READ THIS WAY
UNH!
WAIT! DON'T GET ANY CLOSER TO SHAKA!
WHAT?
TH... THIS IS...


...VIRGO SHAKA'S GREATEST ATTACK!!

AS YOU KNOW, THE TENBUHÔRIN IS BOTH OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE!
NOW THAT YOU'RE TRAPPED IN IT, YOU CAN NEITHER ATTACK NOR ESCAPE!!
TENBU-HÔRIN: HEAVEN-DANCING DHARMA!!

NEITHER ATTACK NOR ESCAPE?
SO WE'RE STUCK INSIDE SHAKA'S SPELL, HUH?
BUT AT THIS RATE...
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU CANNOT WIN.
IF YOU WISH TO DEFEAT ME, YOU HAVE ONLY ONE MOVE...
WHAT?
NOT *THAT* MOVE!
DON'T TELL ME...
THAT'S RIGHT...THE SHADOW TECHNIQUE...
...BANNED BY ATHENA IN THE DISTANT PAST...

THE ATHENA EXCLAMATION!

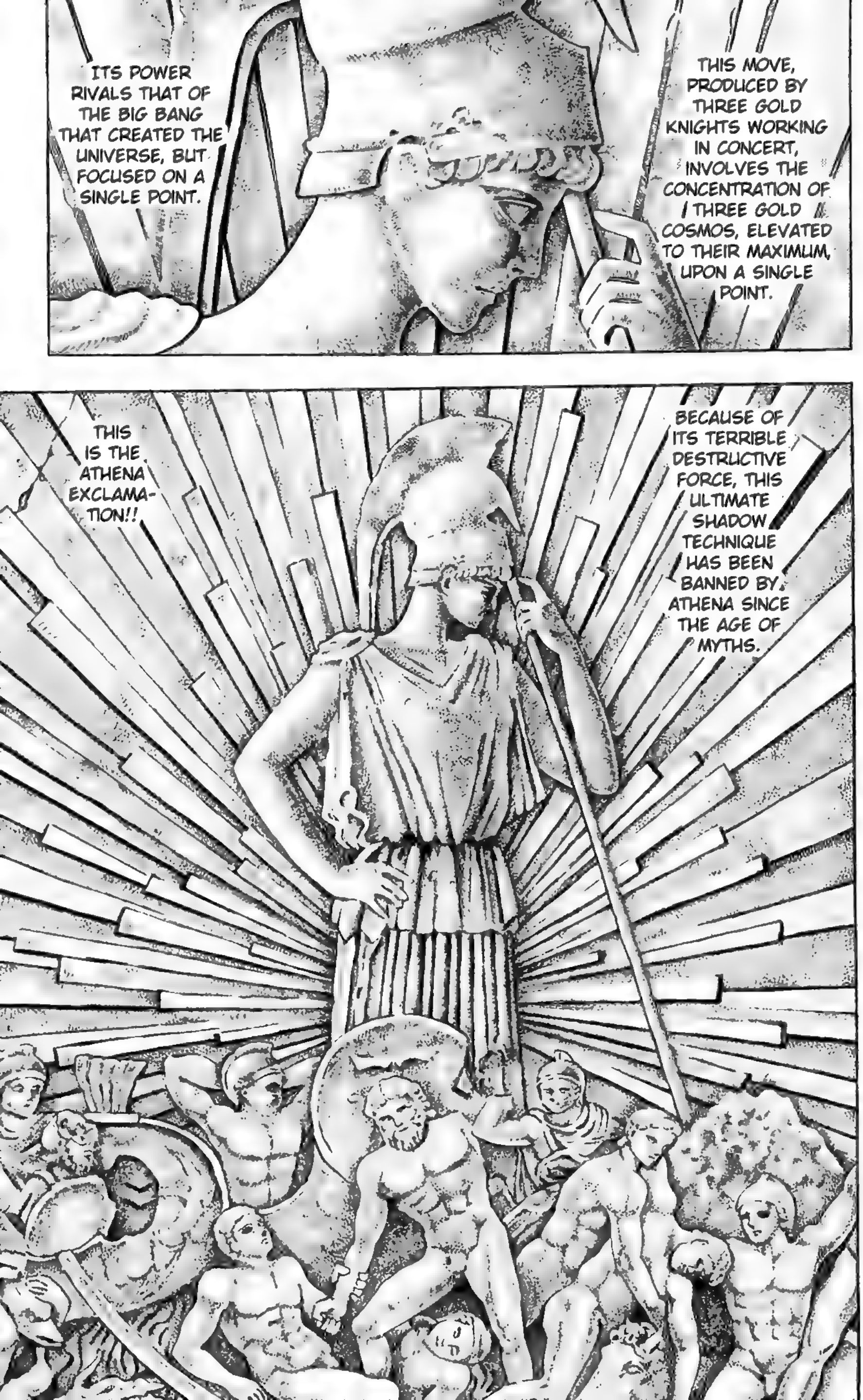
BDMP
NO... PLEASE, NOT THAT...
BDMP
THAT'S THE FORBIDDEN ULTIMATE MOVE OF THE GOLD KNIGHTS...
BDMP
BDMP
NOT THE ATHENA EXCLA-MATION!
HEH...YOU'VE ALREADY STOOPED TO WORKING FOR HADES. WHY HESITATE NOW?
WHETHER YOU USE IT IS YOUR CHOICE. EITHER WAY, I'LL CONTINUE TO SEVER YOUR FIVE SENSES.
OHM
FWASH

WHOOM
FIRST SENSE SUN-DERED!

UGH!!
SMAK
THUK
I SEE, SHAKA...
WELL, THEN... AS YOU WISH...
HOLD ON, SAGA! NOT THAT!
EVEN IF WE WIN HERE, OUR SOULS WILL BE DAMNED FOREVER!
BOTH OF YOU KNEW THE TRUTH...
...FROM THE MOMENT WE ENTERED THIS GARDEN.

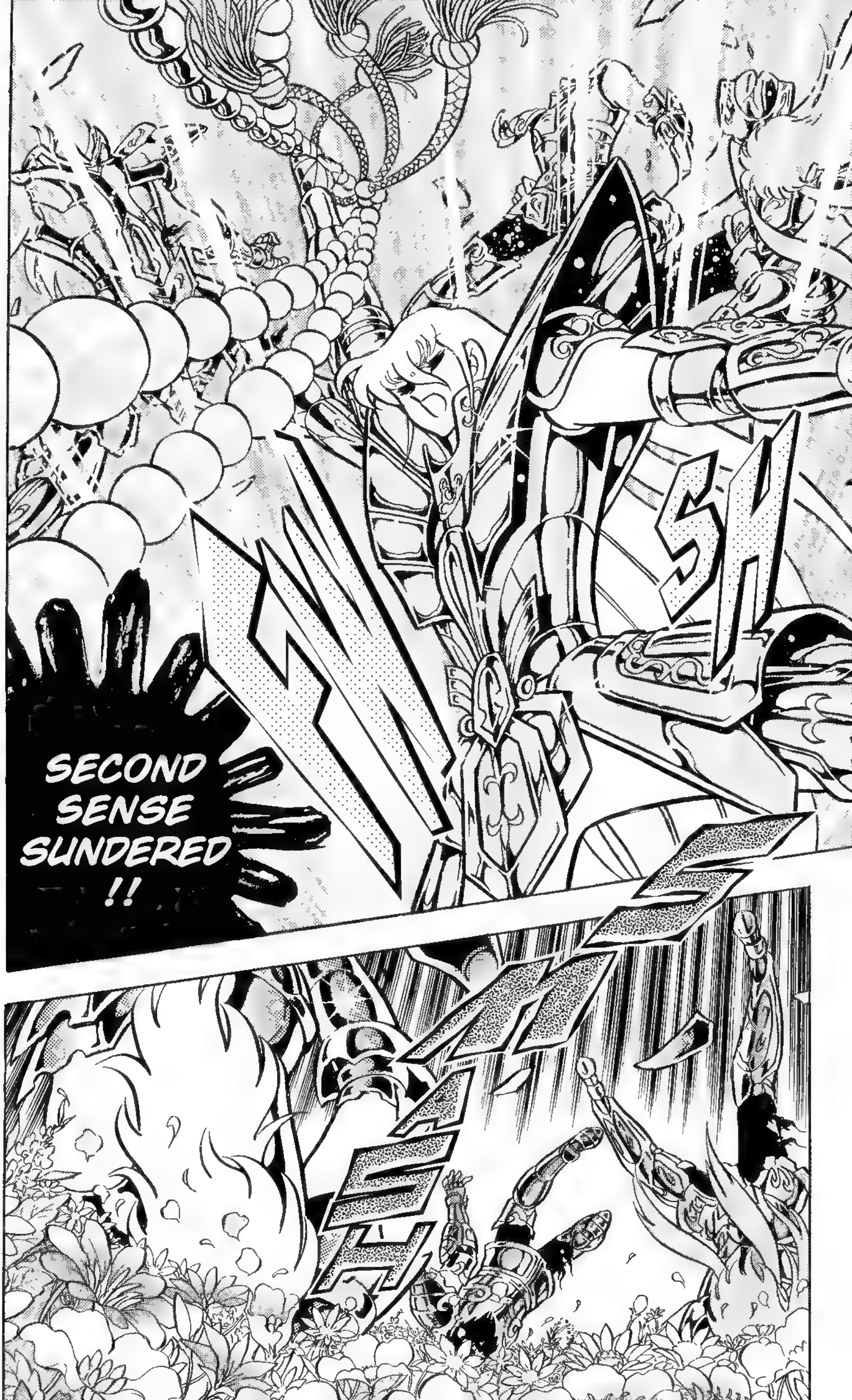
SHAKA IS PRE- PARED TO DIE!
HE'S READY TO END HIS LIFE BENEATH THE SALA TREES!!

THE ATHENA EXCLAMA-TION!!


THIS MOVE, PRODUCED BY THREE GOLD KNIGHTS WORKING IN CONCERT, INVOLVES THE CONCENTRATION OF THREE GOLD COSMOS, ELEVATED TO THEIR MAXIMUM, UPON A SINGLE POINT.
ITS POWER RIVALS THAT OF THE BIG BANG THAT CREATED THE UNIVERSE, BUT FOCUSED ON A SINGLE POINT.
BECAUSE OF ITS TERRIBLE DESTRUCTIVE FORCE, THIS ULTIMATE SHADOW TECHNIQUE HAS BEEN BANNED BY ATHENA SINCE THE AGE OF MYTHS.
THIS IS THE ATHENA EXCLAMATION!!

WE'LL UNLEASH IT AND STRIKE SHAKA DOWN!!

BUT...THE ATHENA EXCLAMATION...
THE KNIGHTS WHO PERFORM IT CAN NEVER BE ABSOLVED...
WHY DO YOU HESITATE?
WHILE YOU WAVER, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR SENSES, ONE BY ONE!!
FWASH


SECOND
SENSE
SUNDERED
!!

READ THIS WAY
UGH... ATHENA'S KNIGHTS FIGHT FAIR, NO MATTER WHAT...
hff
ATHENA DOESN'T EVEN CONDONE WEA-PONS...
hff
DO YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND, SAGA? IF WE DO THIS...
AND SHE BANNED THE ATHENA EXCLAMATION ...
hff
...AS A MOVE THAT DOESN'T BELONG IN A BATTLE FOR JUSTICE.
hff
...WE'LL BE COMPLETELY STRIPPED OF OUR KNIGHTHOOD! EVEN AFTER DEATH...
...WE'LL BE BRANDED FOR ETERNITY AS TRAITORS...WORSE THAN DEMONS!
THIRD SENSE SUN-DERED!!

HAVE YOU TWO FORGOTTEN WHY HADES GRANTED US THIS TEMPORARY LIFE?
OUR TIME'S GROWING SHORT...
...GET TO ATHENA...
NO MATTER WHAT...WE MUST...
SAGA!
TO ACHIEVE THAT, WOULDN'T YOU GLADLY THROW AWAY YOUR HONOR AND YOUR KNIGHTHOOD?

IT'S ALL FOR ATHENA'S SAKE...
WE'VE ALREADY DIED ONCE. LET'S ACCEPT THE TITLE OF COWARDS... AND THE MARK OF TRAITORS.
YOU...YOU'RE RIGHT. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO DIE HERE FIGHTING SHAKA.
FOR THE SAKE OF LOVE AND JUSTICE!!
FWISH
FOURTH SENSE ...
...SUN-DERED !!

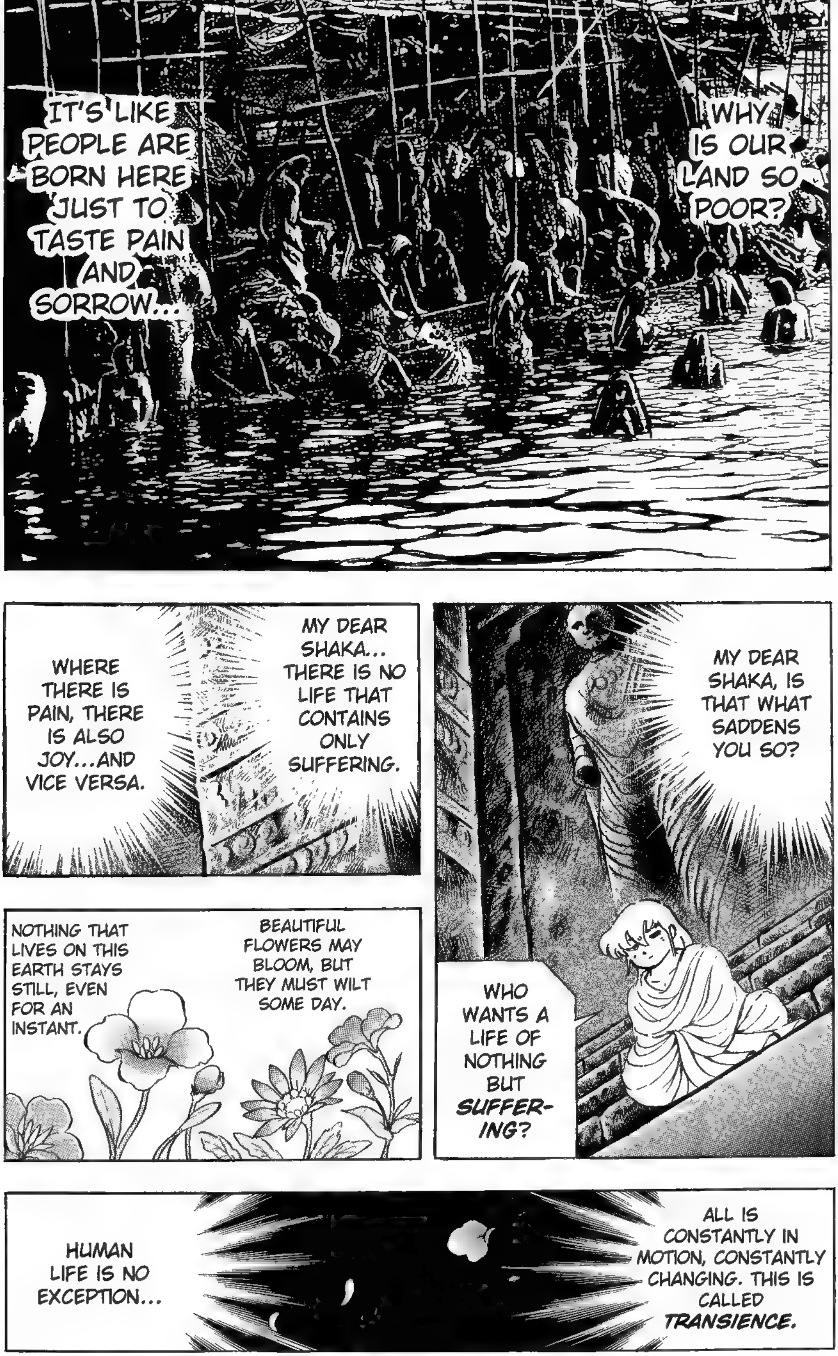
NO...
SHAKA...
I FEEL... UNEASY...
HA

READ THIS WAY
UNH...
SHAKA... ARE YOU REALLY...
... PLAN-NING TO DIE?
WAIT, SHAKA!
WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE !!

THE GARDEN OF THE SALA TREES IS BEHIND THIS DOOR!
THIS DOOR WON'T BUDGE...AND I CAN SENSE THEIR COSMOS *BURNING* ON THE OTHER SIDE...
ALL RIGHT, SHIRYÛ, STAND BACK. I'M GOING TO PULVERIZE THIS DOOR!
ZHK
WAIT, AIORIA!
KLAK
WHAT?
OH!
YOU CAME TO HELP SHAKA, TOO...
MÛ!

READ THIS WAY

MY DEAR SHAKA !!
SHAKA !!
WHY ARE YOU SO SAD? YOU ARE BUT SIX YEARS OLD, YET EVERY DAY, YOU SEAT YOURSELF HERE.
WHAT DIS-TRESSES YOU SO?
TODAY I SAW CORPSES FLOATING DOWN THE RIVER GANGES.
ON HER BANKS WERE PILGRIMS FROM ALL ACROSS INDIA.
TO ME, IT SEEMED LIKE THEY WERE PRAYING FOR *DEATH*, NOT LIFE.


IT'S LIKE PEOPLE ARE BORN HERE JUST TO TASTE PAIN AND SORROW...
WHY IS OUR LAND SO POOR?
MY DEAR SHAKA, IS THAT WHAT SADDENS YOU SO?
WHO WANTS A LIFE OF NOTHING BUT SUFFERING?
MY DEAR SHAKA... THERE IS NO LIFE THAT CONTAINS ONLY SUFFERING.
WHERE THERE IS PAIN, THERE IS ALSO JOY...AND VICE VERSA.
BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS MAY BLOOM, BUT THEY MUST WILT SOME DAY.
NOTHING THAT LIVES ON THIS EARTH STAYS STILL, EVEN FOR AN INSTANT.
ALL IS CONSTANTLY IN MOTION, CONSTANTLY CHANGING. THIS IS CALLED TRANSIENCE.
HUMAN LIFE IS NO EXCEPTION...

EVEN IF YOU SEEK OUT LOVE AND HAPPINESS, IT'LL COME TO NOTHING WHEN YOU DIE.
...DOESN'T THE SADNESS WIN IN THE END?
BUT IF IT ALL ENDS IN DEATH ANYWAY...
DEATH IS FINAL AND ETERNAL... NO ONE CAN AVOID IT...
WHY DO PEOPLE KEEP GETTING BORN INTO THE WORLD, IF THEY JUST GET SWALLOWED UP BY DEATH?
LISTEN ...
LISTEN ...
MY DEAR SHAKA, YOU'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING!

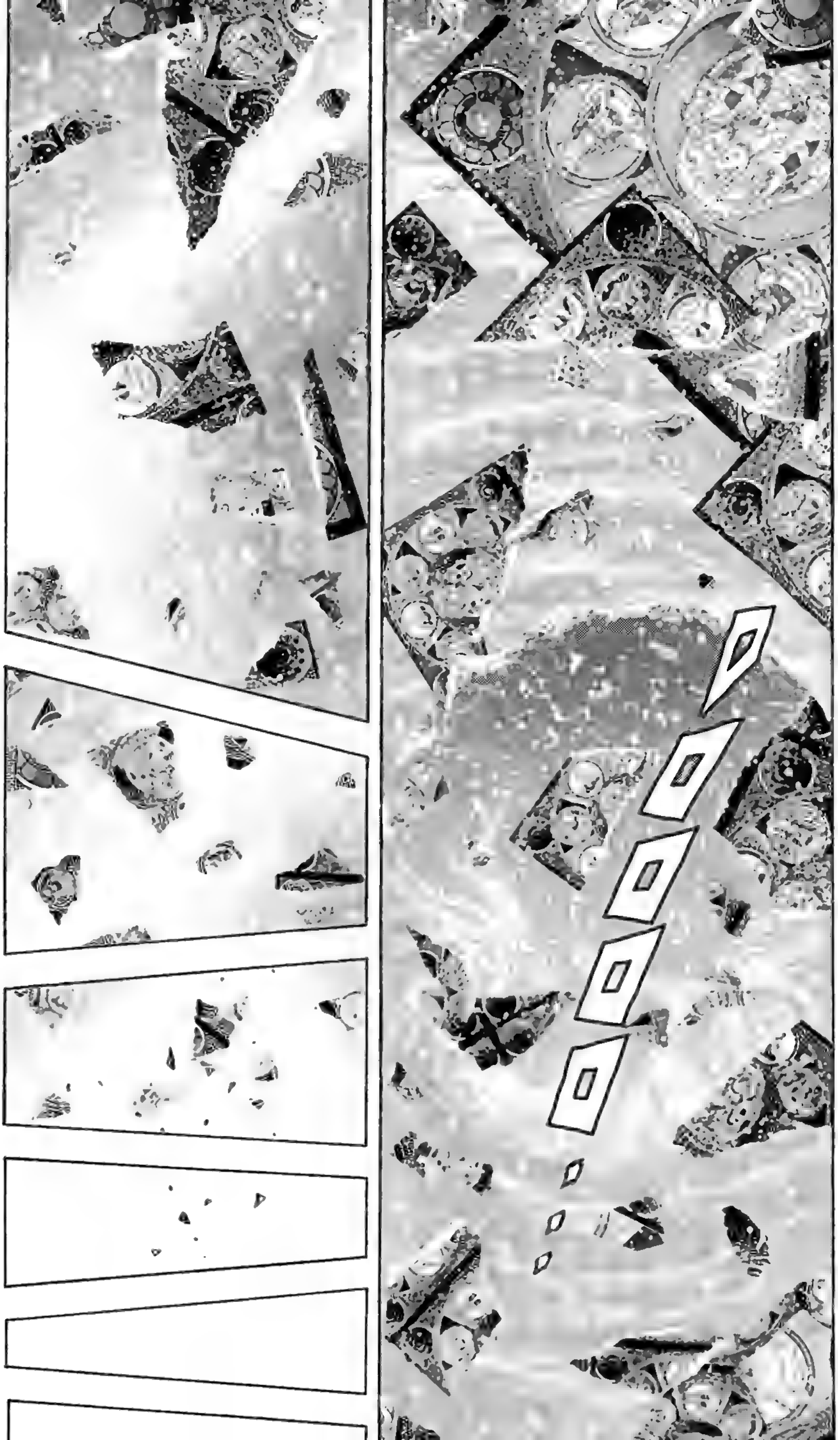
TAKKA
AS YOU WISH, SHAKA.
THE ATHENA EXCLAMATION!
YOU FINALLY COMPRE-HEND.
HOWEVER, I THINK YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO LATE. WITH THE NEXT BLOW, YOU'LL LOSE ALL FIVE SENSES.

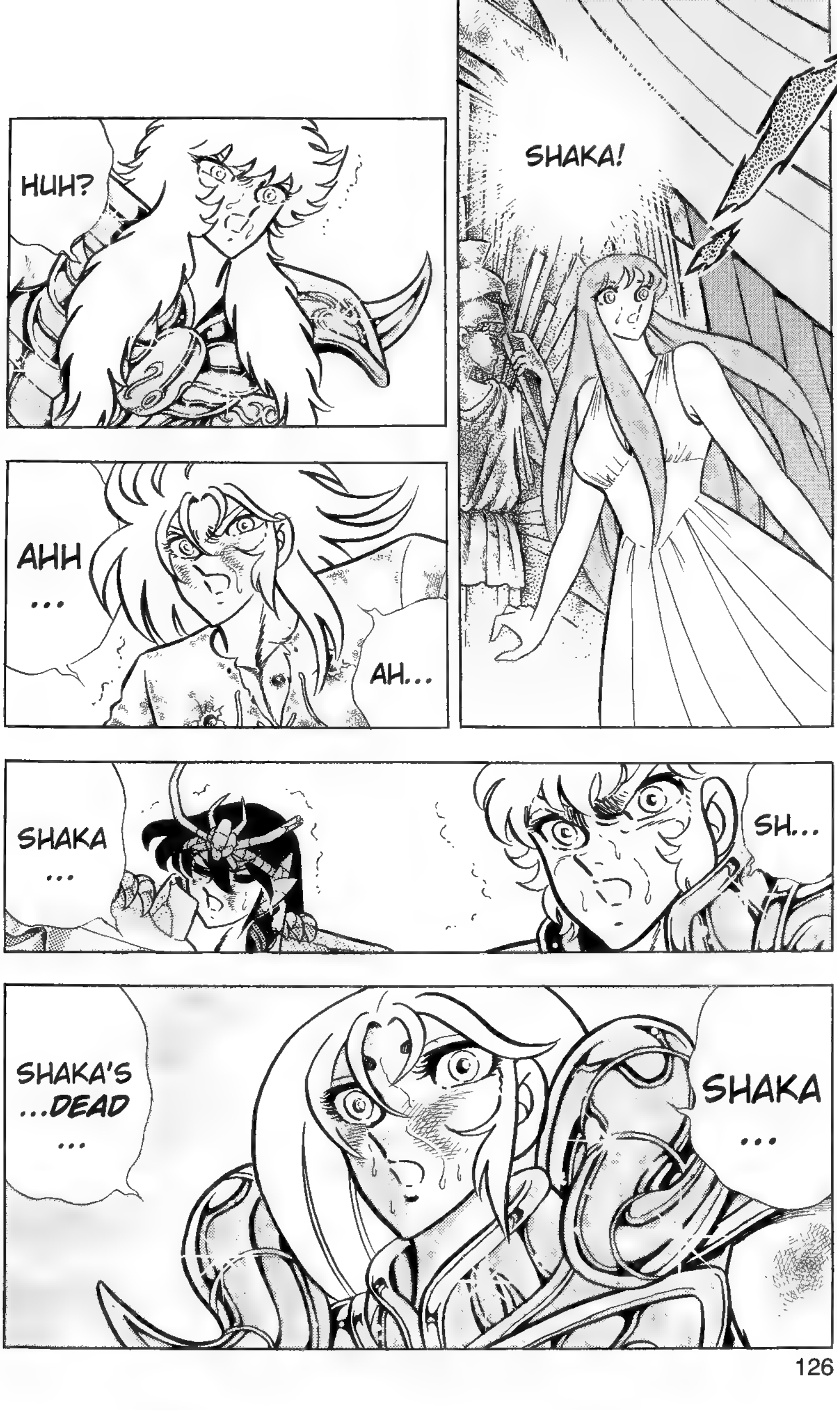
BDMP
PREPARE YOURSELVES AND COME FORTH!!
IF YOU CAN'T KILL ME BEFORE I BRANDISH THIS ROSARY, YOU'LL BE STRUCK DOWN YOURSELVES!
BDMP
WE KNOW.
SHAKA, WE SWEAR YOUR DEATH WILL NOT BE IN VAIN.
GO PEACE-FULLY TO NIRVANA!
BDMP
BDMP
WHOOO

ATHENA EXCLAMATION!!
FWOOOM
FIFTH SENSE SUNDERED!!
FLASH

THE FLOWERS OF THE SALA TREES HAVE SCATTERED...

FWA-




HUH?
AHH ...
AH...
SHAKA!
SHAKA ...
SH...
SHAKA'S ...DEAD ...
SHAKA ...

ALL THE POWER OF THE BIG BANG WAS UNLEASHED ON A SINGLE POINT...
...OUT-SIDE THE PALACE OF THE MAIDEN...
...IN THE GARDEN OF THE SALA TREES...
VOOSH...

THE GARDEN WAS UTTERLY ERASED...
...THE BEAUTIFUL GRASS AND FLOWERS BLOWN AWAY, THE VERY EARTH TRANSFORMED INTO AN ARID PLAIN...

ALL THINGS ARE IMPER-MANENT...
THE PROS-PEROUS MUST DECAY...
...
...LEAVING ONLY THE TWO SALA TREES INTACT...

HOW DARE YOU, SAGA?
USING THE FORBIDDEN MOVE TO KILL SHAKA...I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW FAR YOU'VE FALLEN!
YOU HAVE KNOWINGLY BROKEN YOUR OATHS AS KNIGHTS!!
CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE NOW PROVEN BEYOND A DOUBT THAT YOU'RE HADES'S LACKEYS!
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!!
SAGA... WHY? WHY?
WHY ARE YOU DOING THESE THINGS?

SLAM
SHAKA ...
...WE WILL AVENGE YOU!
WHAT-EVER IT TAKES...
GRM
GRM
UGH... OOF...
OH...
FORGIVE US, SHAKA...

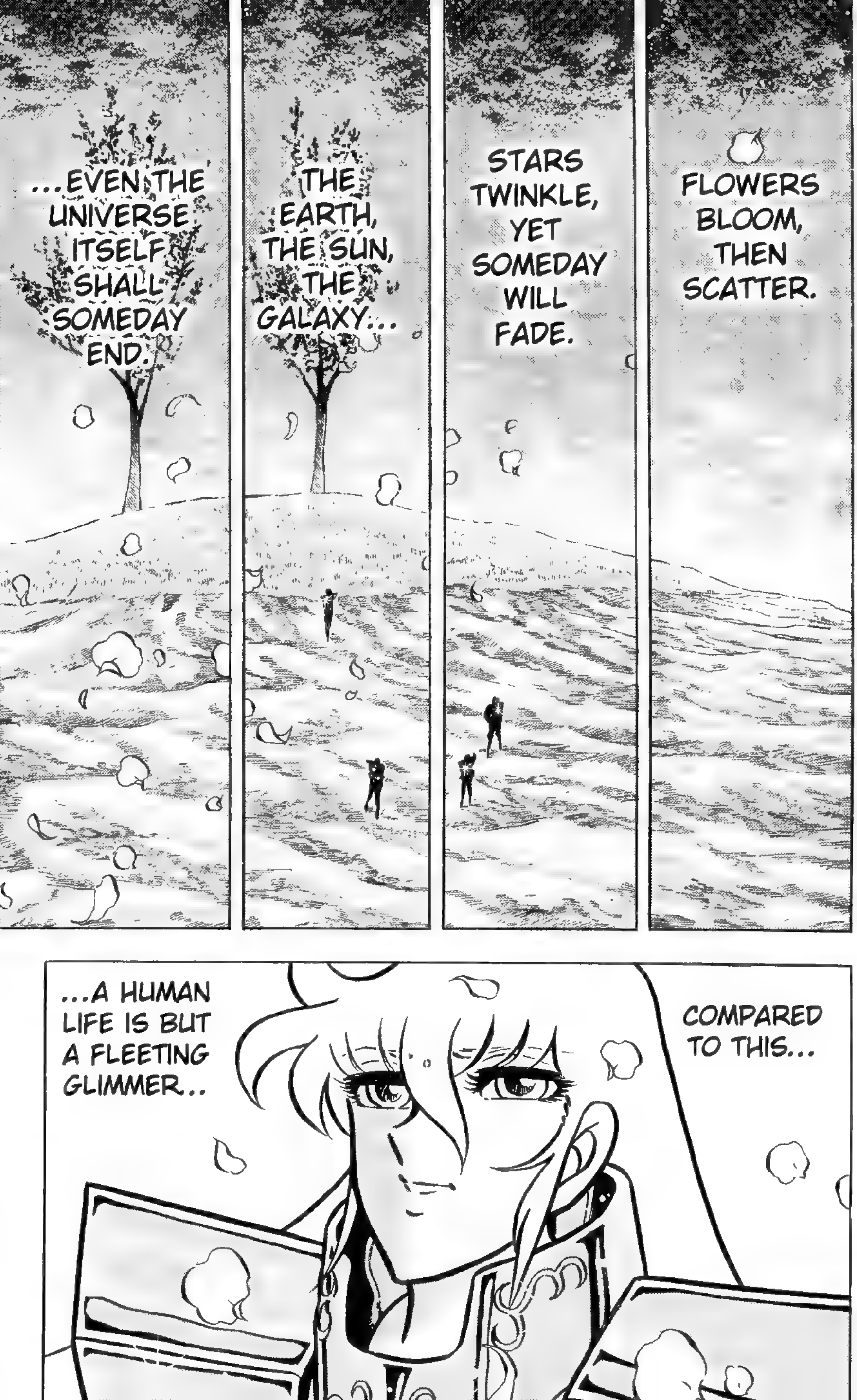
SHAKA...
MY DEAR SHAKA...
YOU MUST NOT FORGET...
...THAT DEATH NEED NOT BE FINAL.
ALL THE HOLY ONES OF THE PAST HAVE OVERCOME DEATH.
MY DEAR SHAKA, IF YOU CAN COMPREHEND THIS...
...YOU SHALL BECOME THE MOST GODLIKE OF MORTALS...

HYOOOO
I...I'VE STILL GOT A LITTLE HEARING LEFT...
IT SEEMS I CAN STILL SPEAK.
hff
hff
hff
hff
MY SIGHT'S INTACT...AND WE CAN ALL COMMUNICATE TELEPATHICALLY.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SAGA?
WHAT DO YOU SEE?

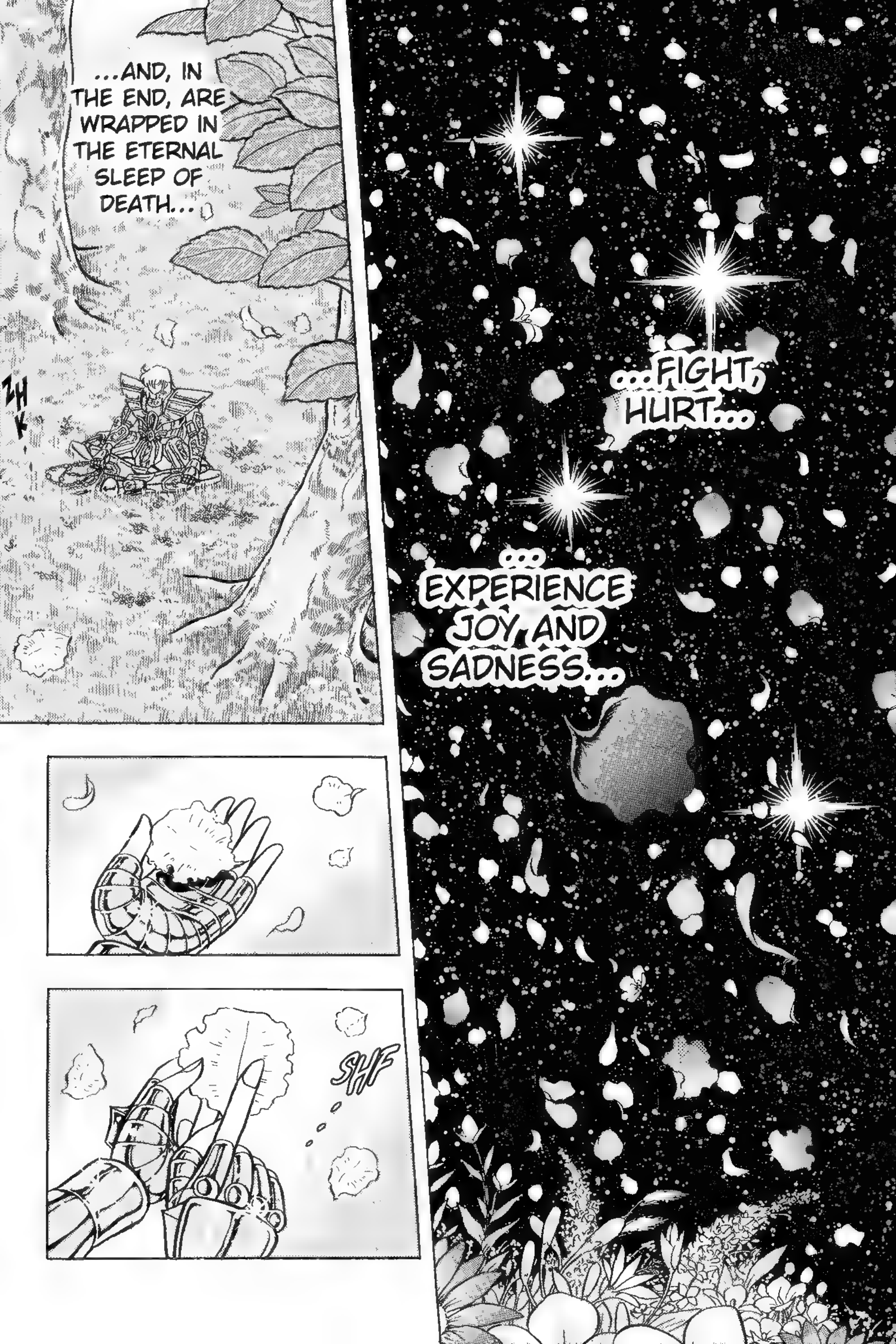
SHAKA !!
NO...IT CAN'T BE...
THE ATHENA EXCLAMATION SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT EVEN DUST OR ASH!
WHAT IS THIS?

READ THIS WAY

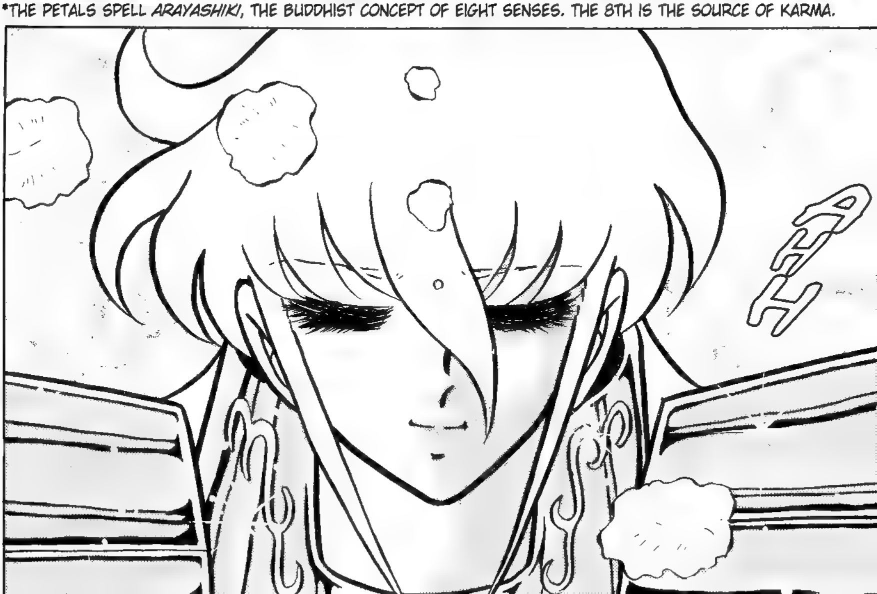
TAK
TAK
TAK


FLOWERS BLOOM, THEN SCATTER.
STARS TWINKLE, YET SOMEDAY WILL FADE.
THE EARTH, THE SUN, THE GALAXY...
...EVEN THE UNIVERSE ITSELF SHALL SOMEDAY END.
COMPARED TO THIS...
...A HUMAN LIFE IS BUT A FLEETING GLIMMER...

AND IT IS DURING THAT BRIEF INSTANT THAT PEOPLE ARE BORN...
...LOVE, HATE...
...LAUGH, CRY...

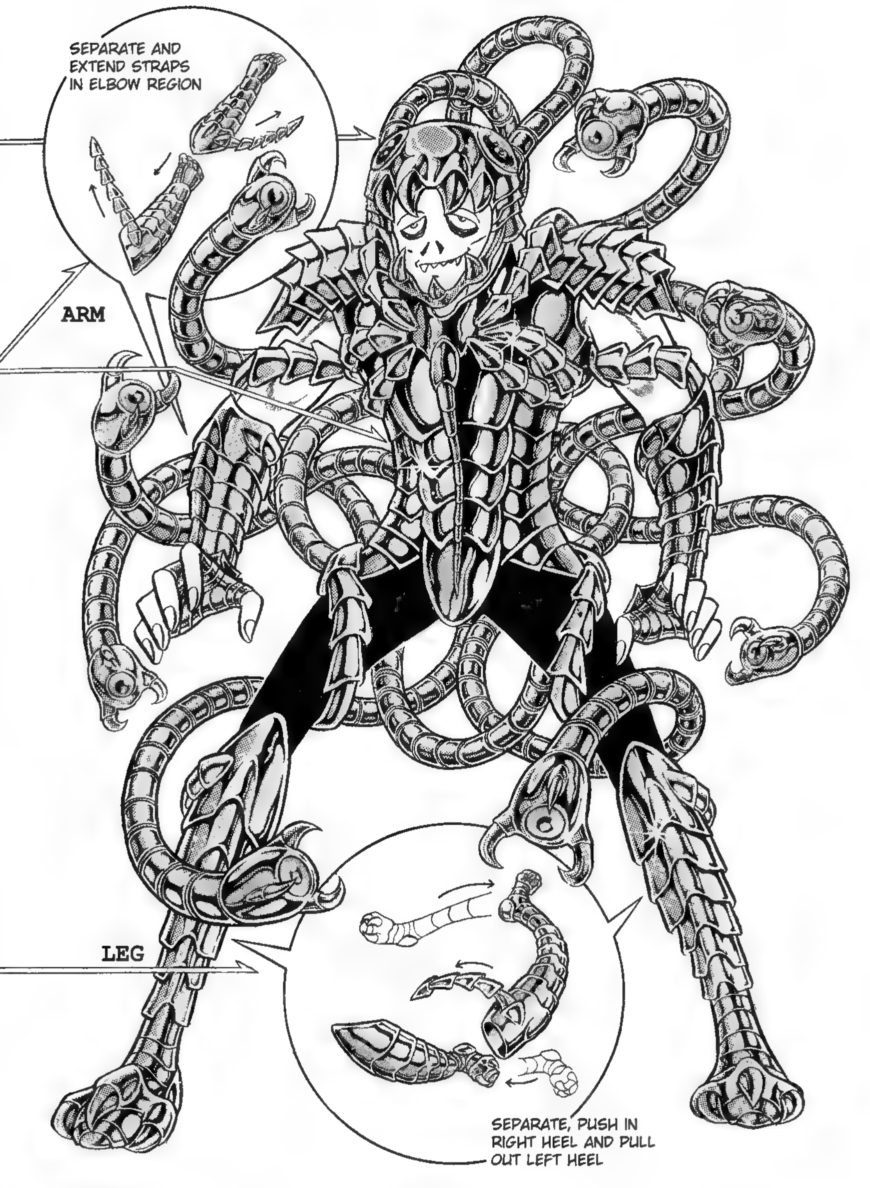

...FIGHT, HURT...
...EXPERIENCE JOY AND SADNESS...
...AND, IN THE END, ARE WRAPPED IN THE ETERNAL SLEEP OF DEATH...
ZHK
SHF

*THE PETALS SPELL *ARAYASHIKI*, THE BUDDHIST CONCEPT OF EIGHT SENSES. THE 8TH IS THE SOURCE OF KARMA.



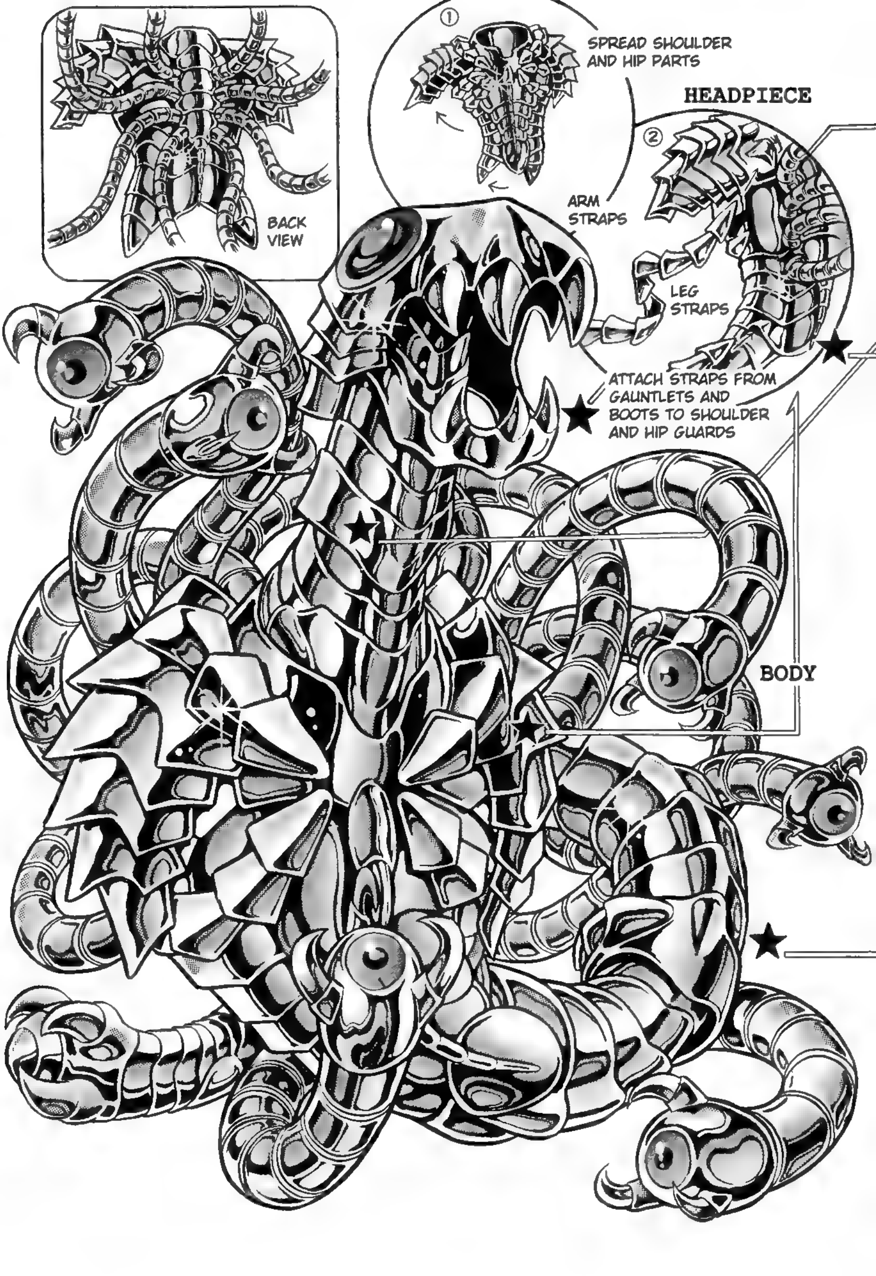
WIND, CONVEY THESE ...
...TO ATHENA!
ARE YOU READY NOW?
THEN, WITH YOUR LEAVE ...

JUST AS I THOUGHT...
SHAKA WAS KILLED IN THE BLAST, AFTER ALL...
TUP
IT WAS HIS SOUL THAT RETURNED TO THE SALA TREES...



SURPLICE BREAKDOWN AND FITTING CHART 7

THE EARTHLY LOW-LYING STAR WORM SURPLICE


BACK VIEW
SPREAD SHOULDER AND HIP PARTS
HEADPIECE
ARM STRAPS
LEG STRAPS
ATTACH STRAPS FROM GAUNTLETS AND BOOTS TO SHOULDER AND HIP GUARDS
BODY

I ENTRUST UNTO ATHENA...

SHAKA... FORGIVE US...
LET'S REVEAL THE TRUTH, HERE AND NOW...
WE SWEAR UPON YOUR SOUL...THAT WE...

READ THIS WAY

DOOOM

ワァー

TKAKA
SHAKA'S MEMENTO... TAKE IT.
WUMMM

GRAP
STEP ASIDE, MÛ!!
UGH

NO!

KABOOOM
CRASH

GET UP!
UNH...
UNH...
UGH...
GANG UP ON ME LIKE YOU DID SHAKA!!
THIS TIME, I'LL TAKE IT!

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR PRIDE AND YOUR WILL TO FIGHT?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? ATTACK ME!
hff
...AWAKENED BY RAGE, EH?
hff
hff
THE SLEEPING LION...
hff
HE CERTAINLY IS STRONG...
hff
GO BACK TO THE UNDERWORLD AND APOLOGIZE TO SHAKA!
IF YOU WON'T FIGHT, I'LL JUST KILL YOU HERE AND NOW!

LIGHT-
NING
BOLT!!

CLASH
HUH?
WHAT?

MÛ!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? LET GO OF ME!!
AIORIA, THEY WERE HIT WITH THE HEAVENLY DANCING DHARMA. THEY'RE INVALIDS.
THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING MORE...
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KICK THEM WHILE THEY'RE DOWN?
WHAT?
THERE MUST BE SOME DEEPER REASON...
...THAT SHAKA WENT TO HIS DEATH...

READ THIS WAY

SHUKK
LIGHT-
NING
PLASMA
!!

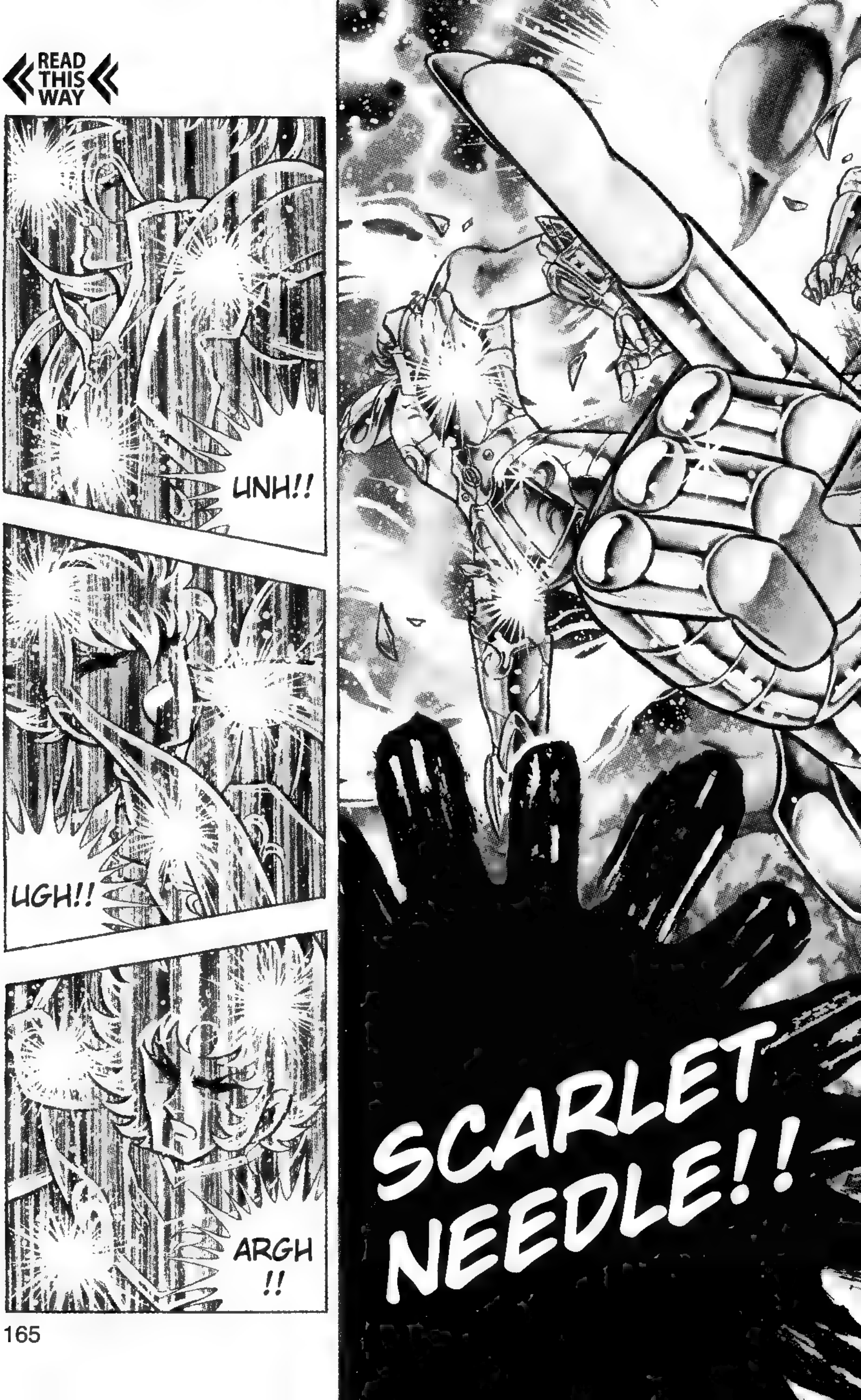
WH... WHAT?
HE STOPPED THE LIGHTNING PLASMA...
AIORIA... I'D LET YOU AVENGE SHAKA IF I COULD...
...BUT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE STRUCK DOWN YET.
WHAT'S THAT?
WE ONLY HAVE ABOUT FOUR HOURS LEFT.
BEFORE THAT TIME IS UP, WE MUST REACH ATHENA.

READ THIS WAY

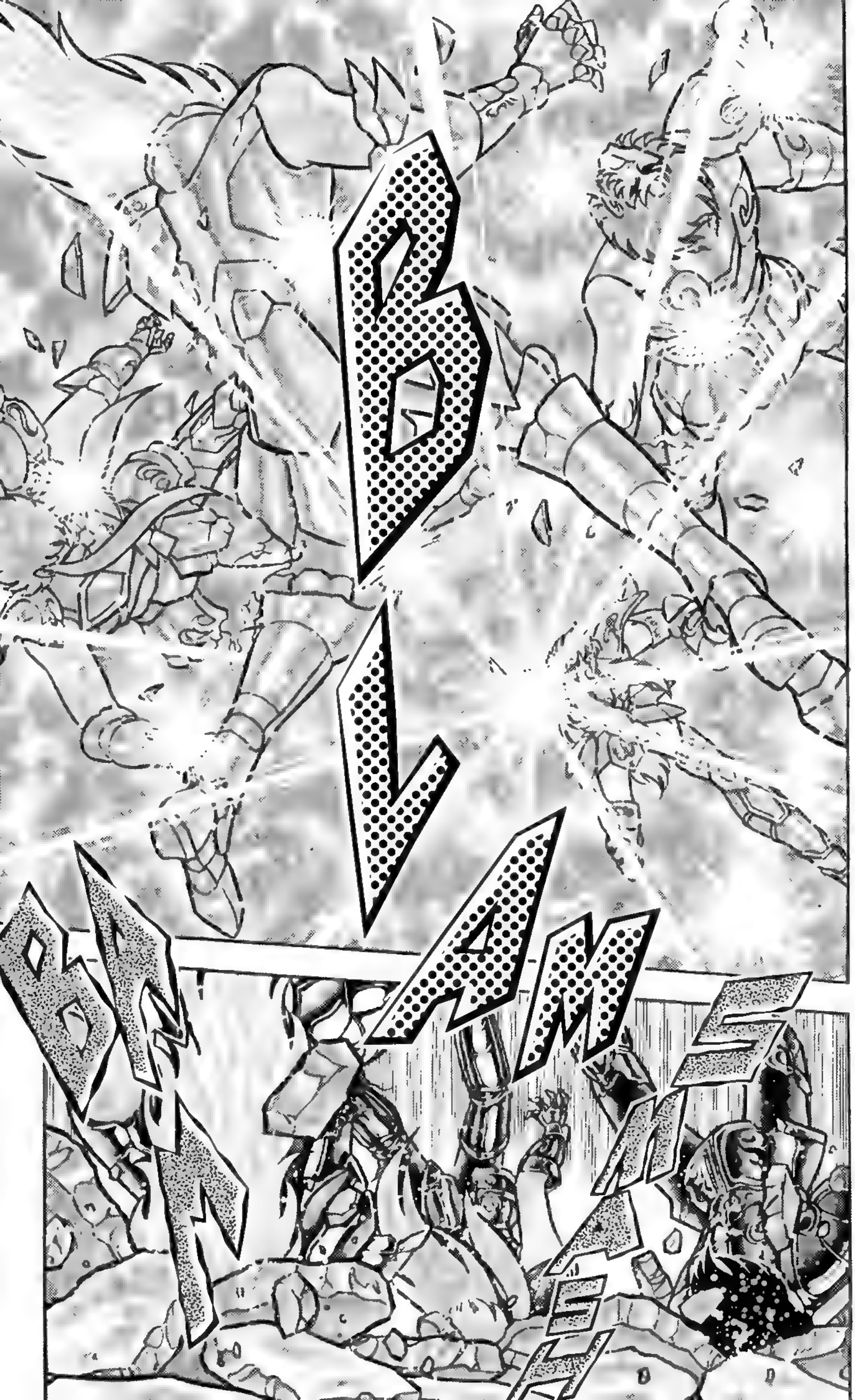
DOOOM
THESE ARE PETALS FROM THE FLOWERS OF THE GARDEN OF THE SALA TREES...
HOW DID THEY GET ALL THE WAY HERE TO ATHENA'S SHRINE?
SHAKA...
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME, EVEN AFTER DEATH?

MIRO !!
YOU'VE ABANDONED THE PALACE OF THE SCORPION?
SHUT UP!!
TASTE MY CRIMSON ATTACK!
DOOOOM

READ THIS WAY



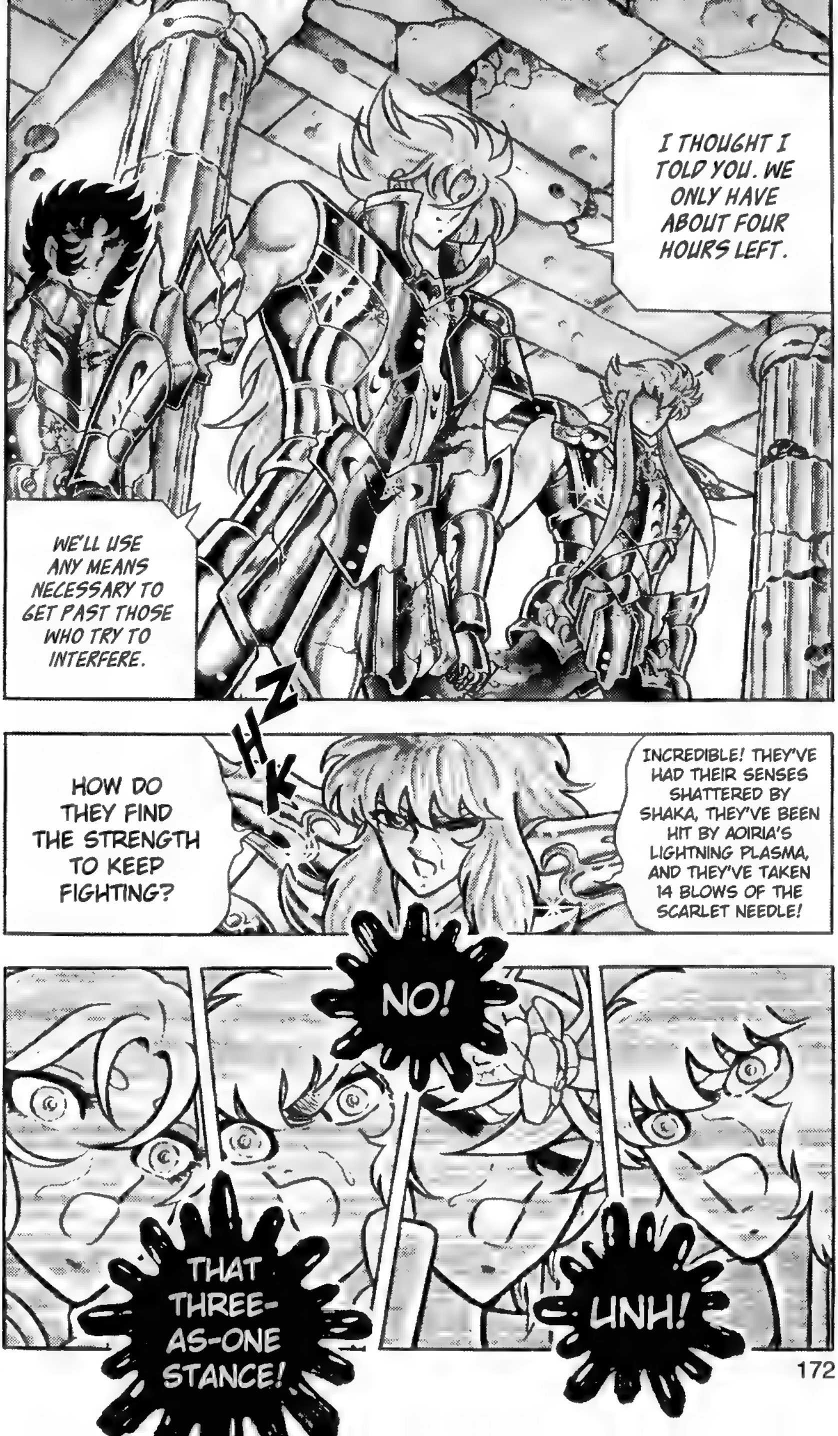
UNH... ARGH...
ONCE SHAKA WAS KILLED, I COULDN'T HANG AROUND MY PALACE ANY LONGER.
IF WE JUST GET RID OF THESE THREE RATS, IT'LL ALL BE OVER.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM RIGHT NOW!!


BLAM
BAM

CAPITULATION OR DEATH? AS YOU KNOW, THE SCARLET NEEDLE ALLOWS THE VICTIM TIME TO MAKE A CHOICE.
BUT NOT THIS TIME.
ZZK
ZZK
ZZK
ZZK
SWISH
DEATH IS YOUR ONLY OPTION !!

ASH
GO BACK TO THE UNDER-WORLD!!
THE FINAL STRIKE! ANTARES !!
ZHK
UGH!!
OH!!
SHAA
MIRO! LOOK OUT!

UGH !!
UGH...IF MÛ HADN'T WARNED ME, I WOULD'VE TAKEN THE FULL BLAST!
THAT WAS SAGA'S ULTIMATE MOVE...
...THE GALAXIAN EXPLO-SION!!


I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU. WE ONLY HAVE ABOUT FOUR HOURS LEFT.
WE'LL USE ANY MEANS NECESSARY TO GET PAST THOSE WHO TRY TO INTERFERE.
ZHK
INCREDIBLE! THEY'VE HAD THEIR SENSES SHATTERED BY SHAKA, THEY'VE BEEN HIT BY AOIRIA'S LIGHTNING PLASMA, AND THEY'VE TAKEN 14 BLOWS OF THE SCARLET NEEDLE!
HOW DO THEY FIND THE STRENGTH TO KEEP FIGHTING?
NO!
UNH!
THAT THREE-AS-ONE STANCE!

IT'S THE ATHENA EXCLAMATION!!
SHING

THERE ARE WORDS ON THESE FLOWER PETALS ...
TH... THIS IS A DEATH-BED POEM FROM SHAKA!
A...
RA...
YA...
SHIKI ...

A RA YA SHIKI
阿頼耶識
SHAKA...NOW I UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF YOUR DEATH.
THANKS TO YOU, I, TOO, WILL BE FIRM IN MY RESOLVE...

DOOOOOM
WE CAN BARELY STAND...OUR COSMOS ARE DWINDLING...OUR STAMINA'S DOWN TO NOTHING...THIS IS ALL WE HAVE LEFT.
WE HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT USING THE ATHENA EXCLAMATION AGAIN.
THERE ARE THREE OTHER GOLD KNIGHTS HERE.
SAGA, AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOME-THING?
WE'LL ERADICATE YOU ALL, JUST AS WE DID SHAKA!!
NO!
WHAT?
THAT'S...

...ANOTHER ATHENA EXCLAMATION!!
DOOM
NO...YOU WOULDN'T ...
THAT'S RIGHT... IT'S ABSURD.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF TWO SUCH BLOWS COLLIDE?

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 22!

ENOUGH TALK!!
HERE WE COME!!
FOOLS!
YOU'LL DESTROY EVERY-THING!!
UGH !!
WAAAAH !!
ATHENA EXCLAMA-TION!!